

# The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1879.

## The Week.

THE Governor and Council of Maine issued certificates of election on the 18th inst. to the Legislature they had chosen, and it will stand when assembled—House: 58 Republicans, instead of 90 as elected, and 78 Democrats, instead of 61 as elected; Senate: 20 Democrats and 11 Republicans, the Republican majority of 7 having been more than reversed. The Republicans of the State have been very much excited over the matter, but have already managed to arrange systematically for the expression of their indignation by means of public meetings throughout the State, as, it will be remembered, the Democrats thought of doing throughout the country three years ago. Senator Blaine made a long speech at one of these meetings at Augusta on Friday, in which he stated the grievance of his party very forcibly, though he did not explain what the laws of Maine prescribe in such cases, nor how they have been violated by Garcelon and the Greenbackers. Instead, he announced the amount of taxes paid by the disfranchised cities; declared that of the thirty-seven cases of counting out "there was not one of which the law did not provide and direct the mode of correction," and that so many cases had not occurred in all the fifty-nine previous annual elections of the State; called attention to the fact that the "fatal defects" were all on one side; and advised vaguely "a great popular uprising" at once. He also made this reference to the Louisiana analogy, which is worth reproducing: "This was the law; whether wise or unwise was not for us to determine. But it was the law, and the enforcement of that law defeated Mr. Tilden and elected President Hayes."

It is curious to notice the similarity between this point of view and that taken by Garcelon in his card to the public published the next day. In this he says that he and his fellows took for their rule of action "compliance with the requirements of the constitution and the law without fear or favor," and that if the result is different from that claimed just after the election "it is owing in part to the fact that the claim was unfounded, and in part to the carelessness of municipal officers in making their returns." He sets forth the provisions of the constitution and the different statutes bearing on elections (save that which has direct reference to his own duties, according to a subsequent criticism of his letter by Mr. Blaine); says they are "plain and unmistakable"; that in following them the Council have obeyed not only their own judgment but "the advice of their duly appointed legal officer, aided by the best legal talent in the State"; and concludes by remarking in a consolatory tone that after all the next Legislature (Fusion quorum) is the final arbiter of the election of its own members. In one point the Governor's defence seems decidedly weak: it does not explain how it happened that there were just enough "fatal defects" to elect a Fusion quorum. But we confess that this could only be satisfactorily explained by a person with the quick appreciation of extraordinary coincidences of the elder Mr. Weller. What the Republicans are going to do beyond holding indignation meetings has not yet appeared. Senator Hamlin joins Blaine in counselling a "great popular uprising," but what shape it is to take, or what it is to do when arisen, no one seems to know any better than any one did in 1876 what Mr. Watterson's 100,000 Democrats were to be assembled for.

The House passed before adjournment the Military Academy Appropriation Bill, but did nothing else of consequence. The new rules, from which so much is expected, were reported, and an early day fixed for their consideration. A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution for the control of trade-marks by Congress was referred to the Judiciary Committee. In the Senate Mr. Mor-

gan, of Alabama, introduced a joint resolution providing for the national repossession of land-grants bestowed on railroad and telegraph companies that have failed to comply with the conditions of the gift. The number of acres involved is 123,000,000. Mr. Morgan also made an ineffective speech in favor of maintaining the character and present volume of the greenbacks, and the full restoration of silver to equality with the gold coinage. But the event of the week was the adoption of a resolution proposed by Mr. Voorhees, of Indiana, which appoints an investigating committee to report on the causes of the negro immigration northward, with special reference to allegations of "unjust and cruel conduct" on the part of the whites. Besides the mover the committee as constituted consists of Senators Vance of North Carolina, Pendleton of Ohio, Windom of Minnesota, and Bell of New Hampshire—a good sectional distribution, with, of course, a Democratic majority.

The debate on this resolution was the most earnest and profitable of the session, and it is a pity that it could not have been reported in full by the Associated Press. A very moderate tone prevailed, and party lines were not observed in the vote, though many Southern Democrats supported the enquiry expressly to avoid furnishing political capital by seeming to fear its consequences. Mr. Voorhees at one end of the present line of migration, and Mr. Ransom, of North Carolina, at the other, seemed possessed with the idea that Indiana had been selected for party purposes; and the Southern members generally were disposed to believe that the movement had something to do with the next census and Southern representation in Congress. Their speeches were, however, the best and most obviously sincere, and Mr. Hill's and Mr. Ransom's showing of the progress in education, comfort, and acquisition of property made by the colored people of Georgia and North Carolina since the overthrow of the carpet-baggers was neither fairly nor adequately met. The suggestive fact that at the time when the blacks had their "political rights" the money to educate them was squandered on corrupt legislators, and that now when, according to the Stalwart view, those rights are forfeited they have their full share of schools and full security in their earnings, and their place in the jury-box, is one which ought to affect the popular judgment of the existing situation at the South.

Only two Senators, Messrs. Jonas, of Louisiana, and David Davis, held the enquiry to be beyond the competence of Congress, but this opinion seems to be ill-founded. Mr. Windom wanted to empower the Committee to propose a remedy for the injustice they would probably discover, but the majority preferred not to anticipate the question what Congress could do about it. The general cause of the negroes' restlessness is, of course, a simple desire to better themselves; the choice of Kansas and of Indiana is explicable on grounds having no relation to political intrigue. This, we may be sure, the Committee will find out, and also that the more ignorant blacks have put faith in unauthorized and mischievous promises of Government or private organized aid, and have thus been unsettled in a greater degree than they would have been by their oppressive circumstances. These last, again, will in many States and localities prove to be due to bad, and perhaps unjust, systems of credit and employment and legislation; and in giving further publicity to these evils the Committee, acting as a mouth-piece for the blacks, will probably render their chief service. The South is more and more sensitive to Northern public sentiment, and needs the light of exposure from that quarter as an aid to reform.

It is very hard to form an estimate worth printing about the condition of the Grant movement. Its promoters have been unusually active during the past week, and have claimed the election of Don Cameron to the chairmanship of the National Committee a

a decided indication that they will control the Convention which is to meet at Chicago. This, on the other hand, is strenuously denied by the Sherman and Blaine men, who say that Cameron owes the place to a number of small causes, but mainly to his energy and wealth and experience. It must be noted, however, that in any view the selection of a politician of his stamp from Pennsylvania shows how firmly the managers still rely on the sort of tactics which have brought on the party all the grief and shame which have yet befallen it. The choice of Chicago, however, as a place of meeting, and of a hall that holds eight thousand people, is an immense gain for Grant. The "boom" is strong in that city, and an eight-thousand convention must be a "yelling convention," and more or less in the power of strong-voiced men in any part of the building. In a deliberating convention General Grant would undoubtedly be a weak candidate, and the shrewder men really feel this; but can the Chicago Convention be a deliberating convention?

It is more and more plain that General Grant feels that he is on the track, and is being put through the "preliminary canter," with his consent. Mr. McKee, the original promoter of the "boom" at the West, and editor and owner of its chief organ, the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, has just died, which will be a great loss to it. He was very prominent in the famous whiskey thievery of 1875, in which Babcock and McDonald figured, and was convicted of complicity and sentenced to the penitentiary for two years and a fine of \$10,000, but was pardoned in six months. He has for the past year been very vociferous for Grant. The "boom" has plenty of such men among its supporters, but none owners of successful newspapers.

Weak-kneed Congressmen of both parties will enjoy the holiday recess all the more because of the motion submitted to the Supreme Court on Monday by Senator Edmunds, in his capacity of counsel for the plaintiff in the made-up Chittenden-Butler suit to determine the validity of the legal-tender of greenbacks. The case stands on the calendar as No. 779, Augustus D. Juilliard, plaintiff in error, vs. Thomas S. Greenman, defendant in error. Mr. Edmunds asked for its advancement, and if it could be argued and decided adversely to the legal tenders this winter it would relieve both parties of a burden which they will find it difficult to carry in the next Congress. The Court, however, would probably prefer that Congress should dispose of the matter itself, as it must indicate in some shape or other where the discretion is to be lodged that is to decide when the emergency has arisen which is to authorize the issue of legal-tender notes. The Court got over this in the *Hepburn v. Griswold* case by the aid of the general admission that the war was an unmistakable emergency calling for the exercise of all the powers Congress had. But would the Court decide that war constituted the only emergency which would warrant an issue of legal-tender paper, or that Congress might declare anything it pleased the needed emergency?

The grounds of the motion in detail, as presented by Mr. Edmunds and his colleague, Mr. William Allen Butler, were as follows: That although the case is between private parties and relates to an every-day transaction, the question involved is a vital one for the currency; that the validity of the act of May 31, 1878, which forbids the further retirement of the legal-tender notes, and requires them to be reissued after redemption, is directly called in question by the issue raised in this action, along with "the whole power of Congress to create or maintain the legal-tender quality of United States Treasury notes in time of peace"; that the importance of the case is further proved by the recent message of the President, and the reports of the Secretary of the Treasury and the Comptroller of the Currency, as well as by public sentiment, of all which the Court may properly take cognizance; that the least possible hardship would result from a decision denying the legal-tender quality at a time when business is prosperous and greenbacks are at par, and that this is a powerful argument against postponing the consideration of the case, or allowing it to take its turn; finally, that the

question is assumed to be an open one, not embraced in the decisions of the legal-tender cases 12 Wallace, 457-681. From the preliminary argument, which we have not mentioned, it would appear possible for the Court to shirk the issue by declaring the motion not within the rules; but it is to be hoped they will not avail themselves of it. That courage is wanting in the legislative branch is no reason why the judicial should avoid a public duty.

Every indication that the Southern leaders begin to perceive the hollowness of the alliance between themselves and the Democratic party at the North is encouraging. The Grant "boom" at the South, so far as it reflects this awakening sense, is a good symptom. What is wanted, however, is not a man to stand by and rally around, but a set of principles forming a real and not a sham platform, and in the support of which the South can freely ally itself without regard to existing party lines. This has been well expressed in a recent letter addressed by Congressman Aiken, of South Carolina, to the *Augusta Chronicle*. He is unable to discover any principle in the Democratic party except opposition to the Republican tendency to centralization, and this vanishes when personal interests are at stake, as in Tammany's giving the game to the Republicans at the late election here. He advises the South to detach itself from the "Juggernaut car of Northern Democracy," to abstain from President-making, and to await the formation of a new Union party which will bear some other name than "Democratic."

The principal exportable articles—cotton, breadstuffs, and provisions—continue higher in the domestic than in the foreign markets, so that the supply of commercial bills continues small, and the rates for bankers' bills on London rule above the figures at which gold can be imported. The influx of foreign gold has therefore ceased, and the arrivals of lots previously started from Europe amounted during the week to only \$689,000. The total specie imports for the year amount, however, to \$83,740,000, of which \$77,489,000 have arrived since August 1. Notwithstanding these large arrivals of foreign gold, the demands for money throughout the country for legitimate purposes and for speculation have been sufficient to keep the rates for money loans fully as high as a year ago; and the New York banks find even greater difficulty than then in keeping up their reserves. Currency has not yet begun to return to New York from the interior, although ordinarily the current, at this date, is strongly towards the Atlantic cities. The revival of business in every department, in all parts of the country, together with the speculative spirit that prevails, furnishes the explanation of this strange condition of affairs. At the Stock Exchange, the early part of the week was notable for the depression of stocks and bonds; before the week closed, the depression gave place to buoyancy. Congress has taken its holiday recess without making any provision for a further refunding of the public debt; the Committee of Ways and Means still standing for a 3½ per cent. bond and the Treasury for a 4 per cent. bond to replace the \$791,000,000 of 5 and 6 per cent. bonds which will begin to fall due December 31, 1880, and which will all mature by June 30, 1881. Silver in London fell from 52½d. to 52½d. and returned to 52½d. per oz. Here the bullion value of the "buzzard dollar" at the close of the week was \$0.8778.

The trial of Dr. Talmage before the Synod ended in a dismissal of the complaint by a majority of twenty-six to thirteen. The minority, if the newspaper report be correct, were all ministers; the majority was composed of ministers and elders equally. What renders the case remarkable or important is that there was, we believe, no dispute about the facts. The sole question before the Synod, as before the Presbytery, was whether the facts constituted "falsehood and deceit," and that the twenty-six ministers should be sharply divided on a question of this sort is an extraordinary and by no means edifying circumstance, particularly as, judging from the published testimony, there would not have been any difference of opinion on the question between an equal body of what are called



"men of the world"—that is, simply honorable men making no profession of religion. The verdict was cast, too, immediately after Talmage had made two statements in his pulpit of undoubted mendacity—one about the assessments on his church and the other about the "moral rottenness" of his accusers. The result was apparently reached partly through love of "harmony" on the part of the majority, and partly through a sort of lachrymose dislike to be unpleasant to anybody or to "embitter sentiments," which seems to be a prominent feature in Brooklyn theology. When the decision was announced, Talmage arose and with the utmost coolness declared his willingness to meet "these brothers" who believed him guilty of "falsehood and deceit," and whom he had just been accusing of "moral rottenness," "half way, or more than half way," and went on to propose a reconciliation tableau, which would have been very repulsive, and we are glad to say, both in the interests of religion and morality and common decency, did not come off, "the brothers" having the manliness not to respond to his advances. He also exhibited himself to the thirteen ministers who had just pronounced him a liar and cheat as "a sinner saved by grace."

The news from Afghanistan shows the situation there to be substantially unchanged. General Roberts, with whom some communication seems to have been had by flash-signals, appears to be safe in his cantonment. Although he is on substantially the same ground as General Elphinstone's force in 1841, and seems to have retreated to his quarters somewhat precipitately—witness the reported murder of stragglers and wounded on the way—he is vastly better off. He has a good stock of provisions within his lines, which Elphinstone had not; and his magazine is within the lines too, which Elphinstone's was not. Moreover, he is a vigorous and able commander, and his force has not been demoralized by reverses, as Elphinstone's was. His breechloading rifles, too, kill at 1,000 yards, while Elphinstone's muskets were not good beyond 300 yards, and had to reply to the jezails, which were effective at 500 yards. So he will probably hold out well, if the Sepoys do not begin to die of cold, which is very likely, as his supplies of fuel must be scanty. General Gough is moving down to his relief with from four to five thousand men, but he has to get through the Khoord-Kabul and Jugdulluck passes, both frightful ravines, with the Ghilzai tribe operating on his flanks, and the snow lying heavily. He may accomplish this feat successfully, as Sir Robert Sale accomplished it at the same season in 1841; but it is difficult. All is quiet on the Kandahar side, but no trouble in Eastern Afghanistan has ever been anticipated.

The Government and their newspaper organs are now saying that there is nothing alarming in the situation, and indeed that it is what was to have been expected, because the tribes, being now released for three months from their agricultural labors, have naturally taken to fighting to pass the time, and will disperse in spring. This would be a plausible view if the invasion had taken place merely for the purpose of chastisement. But as it has been undertaken for the purpose of erecting in Afghanistan a "strong and friendly government" dependent on Great Britain, and is costing enormous sums to an exhausted treasury, the escape of the expeditionary force from total destruction can hardly be called a satisfactory result of the first year's fighting. Besides this, it must be remembered that the Afghan hatred of foreigners and infidels, always passionate, has been doubtless intensified by the hanging, shooting, and village-burning of the last six months. These little operations have been intended as wholesome "punishment," but, as Sir John Kaye pointed out in his history of the last war, they are not taken as punishment in a country in which the vendetta is a sacred duty and custom, but as an injury inflicted by an enemy which every man feels under a solemn obligation to avenge when and how he can.

Another test of the relative strength of the Liberals and Conservatives has been applied in England, in the election at Sheffield of a member to succeed the late Mr. Roebuck, who had turned

"Jingo" two years ago, and had been rewarded with a Privy-Councillorship—an empty honor, it is true, but one of the kind that Lord Beaconsfield thinks much of. The contest has been extraordinarily severe and the excitement very great, but the Liberals carried the day by 14,062 to 13,584, a majority of 478. The election is mainly important as what is here called "a straw," the Liberal candidate having resigned another seat for the express purpose of making the fight, and the Conservative candidate having the local influence of his cousin, Lord Wharfedale, who is a great proprietor in the neighborhood. The Afghan trouble is likely to tell heavily against the Ministry all through the winter, even if it do not end in positive disaster, because it opens up an indefinite prospect of fighting and expense, instead of what was promised—a cheap and speedy improvement of the frontier. Mr. Gladstone's Scotch speeches, too, will probably exert powerful influence, and the Turkish cloud grows blacker and blacker.

The French Ministry has at last succumbed and handed in its resignation. It was made clear in the late debates and interpellations that it had no homogeneous majority to rely on, but was dependent in every division on the kindness of some one section of the Left and Left Centre, and lately has even been under obligations to the Centre. It was consequently at the mercy of any one of four or five small cliques. M. Waddington's personal characteristics, too, were unfortunate. His voice is weak and his manner impassive, and he has too much of the English phlegm to hold a French audience. His late defence, therefore, good as it was in substance, was so defective in delivery as to produce a very inadequate impression. M. Grévy has tried to get M. Freycinet, the present Minister of Public Works, to form a new combination, and as we go to press it is reported that, after a first refusal, he has consented. The fact appears to be, however, that there is no chance of anything permanent before Gambetta consents to form a cabinet, and no politician of prominence cares to take an *ad-interim* position. Whether Gambetta will consent depends, doubtless, on his own opinion as to the ability of the Republican party to bear him without heavy loss in the country. He is the idol of the main body of the party, but there is in France a very large body of Independents, or outsiders, who are easily frightened, and Gambetta's political capacity has been in no way shown so well as in his unwillingness to alarm them.

Many of the recent European complications have been very curious, owing to the strange races and institutions they have brought into prominence. The British war with Abyssinia eleven years ago was one of these, but since the death of King Theodoros in the ruins of his palace we have heard little or nothing of the country. It now reappears again as the dominion of a certain provincial prince Kassa, who allied himself with the British against his suzerain and then succeeded him. When he got on the throne he called himself "King of Kings of Ethiopia." Since then, hearing doubtless of the legend of mediæval Europe, he calls himself King John of Abyssinia, and says he is a direct descendant of Prester John. In 1875 his pretensions brought him into collision with the late Khedive, who meditated the annexation of Abyssinia entire, but only took certain provinces. But in 1876 King John beat him in the field, and then the Khedive fell into financial difficulties and had to leave the King alone altogether. Since then John has grown more bumptious, and now demands back his lost provinces, and also the cession of the port of Massowah on the Red Sea, or else that it be made a free port. The new Khedive sent Gordon Pasha to negotiate with him, but he keeps Gordon as a kind of prisoner. More than this, he also keeps in custody a Catholic vicar-apostolic named Massaia, who was residing in the country. The Abyssinians have always been Christians of the Coptic denomination, but at the beginning of the century the royal family became Catholic and ordered a general change in the same direction. Then they changed back, and now the King of Kings, hearing of the Russian successes in Turkey, thinks of joining the Greek Church, and has locked up the Catholic vicar, about whom the Pope is said to be very uneasy.

## MAINE AND LOUISIANA.

TO characterize adequately the performances of the Democratic Governor and Council in Maine in exercising the functions of a Returning Board would require very strong language. The whole defence they make—that the law obliges them to exact rigid conformity to certain rules in examining the election returns—is demolished by two facts. One is that the errors and omissions which they have discovered and used occur only in towns and districts in which the Republicans have a majority, and it passes belief that none should have been discovered or discoverable in towns and districts in which the Democrats had a majority. The other is that a law of 1877 permits the Governor and Council, when canvassing the returns, to correct such errors and omissions by comparison with the record, and they refuse to avail themselves of this permission, on the ground that the law is unconstitutional. But it is a well settled and necessary principle of American jurisprudence that every law is to be deemed constitutional until a competent tribunal decides otherwise, and on this point the Governor and Council refuse to take the opinion of the court, thus raising a presumption of bad faith of the strongest kind. They have no more right to declare a law unconstitutional than any other man in the State; and if they can refuse to avail themselves of a permissive act on this ground, they can refuse to obey a mandatory one. In short, there is a high degree of probability that they have been guilty of fraud in examining and correcting the returns, and there is absolute certainty that they have been guilty of a gross abuse of discretion in their manner of correcting them. The indignation their performance excites in Maine and throughout the country is not surprising, and it is by no means confined to Republicans. The affair is calling forth also hearty denunciation in leading Democratic papers. We do not need to point out the effect it is likely to have on Democratic fortunes next year.

It has had one parallel, and only one, and this one is worth recalling because it may help to arouse men of all parties to the danger of familiarizing the country with doubtful and unscrupulous uses of power by the party in power. Nothing is more contagious in political contests than examples of recklessness by those who happen to have the machinery of law in their hands, because nothing of the kind ever takes place without furnishing the other side a precedent or suggestion of greater or less force. A very few such precedents would, if allowed to pass unchecked, create a practice of playing tricks with election returns which would speedily make elections a mere form intended to register a prearranged result. This state of things has already come to pass as regards the nominating machinery. The honest, sober, and patriotic portion of the community who are not “inside politics” will have to bestir themselves if they mean to prevent the managers of both parties from bringing it to pass with regard to the electing machinery also. The Louisiana Returning Board in 1876 was chargeable with the same fatal moral disqualification for the exercise of “judicial functions” in passing on election returns as the Maine Returning Board—for so we may call Governor Garcelon and his Council—in that it was made up exclusively of members of one party. In private life this circumstance makes honest men put in a judicial position more than usually scrupulous and cautious, and even reluctant to act. The Louisiana Returning Board, however, were glad of it, for they disregarded the law which directed them to have at least one Democrat among their number, and this in spite of the fact that a Congressional Committee had in 1874 convicted these same men of fraud in counting the votes. The Maine Board, too, is in nowise abashed by the fact that its members all belong to one party; in fact, it seems to have drawn courage from the circumstance, although it has not gone as far as its prototype in refusing to admit a Republican to the Board, because the law does not require it. The Louisiana Board was reasonably suspected of fraudulent designs from the beginning, and the opposite party sent, as in Maine, a committee to watch it and ask for an inspection of the returns, and for the rigid observance of the following

fundamental rules, which are as applicable to the canvassing of votes as to the trial of disputes about property: “Nobody should be judge in his own case; both sides should be fully heard; questions of law should be decided on established principles, questions of fact by the ordinary rules of evidence; the trial of disputed questions should be public; the impartiality of the judges should not only exist but be *manifest*.” The Maine Republicans, in their protest addressed to the Governor and Council, have urged these rules on their adoption in even stronger language than that in which the Democratic Visiting Statesmen urged them on the Louisiana Returning Board. In both cases they have been completely disregarded. In both the Boards substantially acted as judges in their own cause, and decided for their own benefit. They both examined the evidence as to questions of fact and decided points of law in secret. The Louisiana Board, indeed, allowed the evidence of intimidation to be attached to the returns after they were received, contrary to the provisions of the law. Both Boards selected the districts in which they would throw out the returns to suit themselves, and both threw out enough to give their own party the required majority. In Louisiana the Board totally declined to give any reasons for its decisions; in Maine it gave reasons, but they were so lame that the production of them argues an unusual degree of shamelessness.

As to the appearance of impartiality, neither seems to have given itself the slightest concern about it. The Louisiana Board, however, was composed of men of lower character, and therefore more in need of having their impartiality made manifest, than that of Maine. We wish the Louisiana case was in no other respect worse; but it was aggravated by the claim of the Republican Visiting Statesmen, in their report to the President, that these justly-suspected persons, who had been convicted of fraud already by a Congressional Committee and whose private standing in the community was very low, should not only have the monstrous power of throwing out whatever returns they pleased on any evidence they chose to treat as sufficient, but should have had the still greater power of inserting in the returns the votes which they might decide would have been cast if the election had been fair. This sounds, after the lapse of three years, almost incredible, but we are faithfully reproducing the recommendation of the report. To crown all, these persons and almost every one of their underlings and aids immediately received offices of considerable value in the public service from the very persons for whom they had secured a majority. This touch is wanting and must be wanting in Maine, but we do not say it would be wanting if the circumstances permitted it.

The best and only excuse for comparing these two frauds now is, that they throw light on each other. The plea of some Democrats—not many, we are glad to say—that the former justifies or palliates the latter, is simply a fresh illustration not of the guilt and shame of both, but of the amount of mischief such occurrences work. The cheating in Louisiana probably did the country no harm by the disposition it made of the Presidency. In fact, the revelations of the past three years make it plain that it did a great deal of good, in saving the Government from a régime which would probably have been very disreputable. But it did incalculable mischief, to which we endeavored to draw attention at the time, in familiarizing the community with the idea that it is of more importance to elect your own man than to satisfy your opponents that he has been elected fairly. This is the fundamental idea of what is called “Mexicanism.” The fundamental idea of Anglo-Saxon liberty is that no election has ended well which the beaten party does not believe to have been honestly conducted. The preservation and growth of this liberty in the United States have been due to the care which has been taken to cherish and strengthen this idea, and to the success with which it has on the whole been upheld and practised until now. It received a very severe blow at the last Presidential election. A long step towards Mexicanization was taken when that thoroughly Mexican politician, the late Zachariah Chandler, went to work to see that his candidate got the place, no matter what the Democrats thought about it.

It is characteristic of the Democrats that the mode of righting



this wrong, of which they complain so much, should be the perpetration of another wrong of the same character for a paltrier prize. It is true the Maine performance is widely condemned and in strong terms by the Democratic press, but there is no little chuckling over it, as fair retaliation, among such Democratic politicians as do not see the effect it is likely to have on the prospects of their party. There is no way under heaven, however, in which one party can punish the cheating of another effectively but by practising purity itself. The only telling retort the Democrats can make to Republican frauds or errors is the retort of good example; and nothing seems to go so hard with them as this. For ten years they have tried to meet every Republican folly and shortcoming by something worse in the same direction. We presume Governor Garelon and his Council have been crying "fraud" for the last three years as vigorously as anybody, and yet they seize the first opportunity of imitating Madison Wells and his colleagues. But if we could only have had on the other side, also, in 1876 a little of that passion for fair dealing, that fierce hatred of the very appearance of chicane, that sensitive shrinking from the very shadow of suspicion, of which Mr. Blaine and other Republican moralists now offer such splendid examples!

#### SUBSIDENCE OF THE SILVER CRAZE.

THE benumbing report of the Republican caucus committee at Washington, recommending that there be no legislation of any kind this session upon the currency, includes the silver question as a matter of course, and leaves a burden upon the Treasury and a tax upon the people of at least two million dollars per month, which somebody and some political party must answer for—probably in the next campaign, certainly in some future one. The conclusion of the caucus committee is the more reprehensible since the uselessness of the silver coinage has now been proved to the satisfaction of some of its most pronounced supporters. The Warner Bill of last session is dead by the logic of events even more than by the obstinacy of Senator Bayard; and the Silver Bill itself—the provision of law which requires the purchase and coinage of that metal to the extent of two millions per month—has ceased to be an object of affectionate interest except to the few who think that their consistency and their position as public teachers are involved in maintaining it. A bill to suspend the coinage either temporarily or indefinitely would command a surprisingly large vote in spite of the asphyxiating resolution of the caucus; and even if it should not pass now, public opinion would be prepared for its passage at an early day. The coinage of silver dollars cannot go on much longer. The sooner it is stopped the less money will be lost to the taxpayers.

The public opinion of Europe is evidently against another international conference in the interest of bi-metallism. The London *Economist's* statement that the project has been abandoned by our Government may be premature, but it is probably not far wrong. The replies given by England, France, and Germany to the special commissioner of the United States last summer have not been communicated to the public, but it is known that they did not sustain the confidence based upon Mr. Wm. D. Kelley's report of his diplomatic feats at Berlin. Indeed, Mr. Kelley's ardor seems to have been somehow dampened, for he is now quoted as lukewarm on the subject of the dollar of the fathers, and as favoring a suspension of the coinage of it. Possibly his motive for stopping the coinage is to crush England under the weight of the monthly supply of silver which we now kindly dispose of by burying it in the vaults of our Sub-Treasury. If so, we must say that England exhibits surprising indifference to our policy, for the *Economist* actually suggests the very course which Mr. Kelley is said to favor, and which Mr. Halstead shamelessly advocates. It says that "as there is now no hope of silver being rehabilitated by joint action of the Powers, the absurdity of coining money which nobody will take must become apparent." It says nothing about the misery and destitution threatening the British Empire as a consequence of our ceasing to coin silver. But perhaps we are doing Mr. Kelley injustice. Per-

haps he has no dark designs against the Old World, but sincerely believes that the dollar of the fathers is now sufficiently abundant, being equal to one dollar per head of the sons and daughters of the Republic if they should ever become bold enough to draw them out of the Treasury.

The Republican caucus committee having voted a general extinguisher upon currency questions, their action may be taken to include the further prosecution of search for friends of bi-metallism abroad. If financial measures are to be suppressed generally let this one share the fate of the others. Whatever polite phrases may be exchanged between governments on this subject there is not the remotest chance of our ever getting beyond phrases and into the category of acts, because it is impossible for governments, either singly or unitedly, to prescribe what shall be an equivalent. If an ounce of gold is the equivalent of a given article of merchandise, while sixteen ounces of silver are not an equivalent for the same thing, statutes and treaties cannot make the sixteen ounces equal to the one ounce. The utmost they can do is to compel persons who have made bargains and contracts heretofore on the expectation of gold and gold values to accept silver and silver values instead. They cannot compel the making of new contracts on the sixteen-to-one basis if that is not the actual commercial basis, and if it is the actual commercial basis no treaty is needed. Nor can they compel people to handle and carry silver to any great extent if they do not like it. The modern commercial world does not like silver, and Americans, it is safe to say, like it least of all. We use less silver per head than England, France, or Germany, notwithstanding its abundance among us, and every man or woman who receives a silver dollar, whether of the trade or "buzzard" variety, views it with suspicion and passes it off in preference to any other kind of dollar in circulation. The only advantage it possesses is that it is less exposed than other money to the depredations of burglars, few of whom will consent to steal it at par or take any risks whatever on account of it.

The various projects mooted to compel the national banks to receive silver dollars on deposit have faded away. There never was any real substance in any of them. The banks, including those of New York and Boston, have been ready to take silver on deposit to as great an extent as the depositors would agree to receive it back in payment of checks. More than this they could not do even if they would. No legal penalties can force them to do or attempt the impossible. What a bank receives it must pay out. If depositors are not willing to have their checks paid in silver, they cannot expect the banks to load themselves with it. If they are willing, they have only to sign an agreement to that effect in order to have their silver received and stored to the extent of the bank's capacity to take care of it. Any legislation compelling a bank to receive silver without reference to the depositor's willingness to take it back, could only result in a surrender of the bank's charter and its reorganization under State laws. It is not the least of the signs showing that the silver craze is rapidly abating, that we hear nothing more of those fantastic schemes to punish the banks for their alleged discrimination against silver.

Even the claims of the silver-miners are less talked of than heretofore. During the past eighteen months we have presented a curious spectacle to the world. Some thousands of our people have been digging silver out of the bowels of the earth which the Government has paid for, put its stamp upon, and consigned immediately to the bowels of the earth again. The silver subjected to this novel treatment is for all practical purposes just where it was before the miners took hold of it. If it should ever be wanted we should know where to find it, but it never will be wanted except to sell at its bullion value. In the direst depression of the iron trade nobody was bold enough to propose that the Government should buy and bury two million dollars' worth of pig-metal per month. That is what we have been doing for the silver-miners, and they cannot expect that we shall continue to do so always. A century or two ago the British Parliament was petitioned to buy and store the surplus woollen goods on the market in order to stimulate trade and

give employment to labor and capital. The wisdom of the period was engaged upon the subject a long time, and it was finally determined to deny the prayer of the petitioners, but to require that all corpses be buried in woollen shrouds. A similar compromise might be effected with the miners, if they should prove troublesome, by requiring that all coffins be furnished with silver handles. But to do the miners justice we must acknowledge that they had little share in passing the Silver Bill, and have as yet shown no great anxiety to keep it on the statute-book. Senator Jones has made a good deal of noise on the subject at one time and another, but his influence has been insignificant compared with that of the Blands and Warners, the Ferrys and Voorheeses, the Medills and Halsteads. The wisest of them must see that in the long run the price of silver will be regulated by the commercial demand for it, and not by an artificial demand like that of the Secretary of the Treasury, who goes into the market as an automaton to buy what he has no use for. If they do not perceive this truth, the public ere long will perceive it and act upon it.

## Correspondence.

### CONCERNING A NOTE IN DEXTER'S 'AS TO ROGER WILLIAMS.'

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In July, 1651, John Clarke, John Crandall, and Obadiah Holmes, members of the Baptist church in Newport, R. I., visited an aged brother of the church, William Witter, who lived in Lynn, Mass., and who, on account of his advanced age and his consequent inability to visit his brethren at so great a distance, had requested this interview. They arrived at Witter's house on Saturday; and on the following day, in the forenoon, with the members of Witter's family and four or five strangers, they united in a private religious service. During this service the three Newport Baptists were arrested by two constables, and two days after they were sent to the prison in Boston. July 21 they were brought before the court. Mr. Clarke was fined twenty pounds; Mr. Crandall was fined five pounds; Obadiah Holmes was deemed worthy of severer punishment and was fined thirty pounds. In each case the money was to be paid or else the condemned was to be "well whipped." The fines of Clarke and Crandall were paid by their friends, as Clarke says, "without my consent and contrary to my judgment." Upon Holmes, who, like Clarke and Crandall, refused to pay the fine, the alternative sentence was executed. In an account of this affair, which Holmes soon sent to prominent Baptists in London, occurs the following paragraph, the italics, which are our own, being used for a purpose which will appear later:

"And as the man began to lay the strokes upon my<sup>8</sup> back, I said to the people, 'Though my flesh should fail, and my spirit should fail, yet my God would not fail.' So it pleased the Lord to come in, and so to fill my heart and tongue as a vessel full, and with an audible voice I broke forth praying unto the Lord not to lay this sin to their charge; and telling the people that now I found he did not fail me, and therefore now I should trust him for ever who failed me not; for in truth, as the strokes fell upon me, I had such a spiritual manifestation of God's presence as the like thereof I never had nor felt, nor can with fleshly tongue express; and the outward pain was so removed from me, that indeed I am not able to declare it to you, *it was so easy to me that I could well bear it; yea, and in a manner felt it not*, although it was grievous, as the spectators said, the man striking with all his strength (yea, spitting in his hand three times, as many affirmed) with a three-corded whip, giving me therewith thirty strokes. When he had loosed me from the post, having joyfulness in my heart, and cheerfulness in my countenance, as the spectators observed, I told the magistrates, 'You have struck me as with roses'; and said moreover, 'although the Lord hath made it easy for me, yet I pray God it may not be laid to your charge.'"

On page 121 of his 'As to Roger Williams,' published in 1876, the Rev. H. M. Dexter, D.D., refers to this whipping of Holmes, merely mentioning, however, the fact that Holmes received thirty stripes. But in a note he adds:

"Arnold thinks he was 'cruelly whipped' (*Hist. R. I. i. 235*). But Clarke says: 'It was so easy to me that I could well bear it; yea, and in a manner felt it not'; and that he told the magistrates after it was over: 'You have struck me as with Roses' (*Ill. Neues*, etc., 22)."

It will be seen, on comparing the language of this note with the extract from Holmes's narrative, given above, that the author of 'As to Roger

Williams' is in error when he tells his readers, "Clarke says," etc. But this is a matter of small importance. The gross misrepresentation of Holmes's statement, which this note contains, is the notable thing. The purpose of the note is plain. Arnold "thinks," says Dr. Dexter, that Holmes was "cruelly whipped." But there is another view which we may take of this affair; indeed, there is evidence which shows that the punishment was made easy by the magistrates, who, as Dr. Palfrey ventures to hope, sought to vindicate the majesty of the law at little cost to the delinquent. But, according to Dr. Dexter's note, upon what is this view of Holmes's punishment based? Manifestly upon the statement of Holmes. Yet an examination of this statement—and we have quoted the paragraph in full in order that the reader may make this examination for himself—discloses the fact that the punishment, according to Holmes's narrative, was most severe, and that, if Dr. Dexter had quoted the whole paragraph, if indeed he had finished the sentence from which his first quotation is taken, it would have appeared that Arnold was right; while the sentence from which the second quotation is taken shows that the punishment was made easy, not by the executioner, but by the Lord, who did not withhold his support in the hour of his servant's trial.

The writer, in an editorial which appeared June 21, 1876, in *Zion's Advocate*, a religious paper published in Portland, Maine, called attention to this singular perversion of Holmes's language. To this criticism, which was noticed in several other papers, Dr. Dexter replied in the *Congregationalist*, August 1, 1877—more than a year afterward. In this reply he said: "I said Clarke because I meant Clarke, as I was referring in general to Clarke's book (*Ill. Neues*) which contained Holmes's letter. The oversight which I committed was in neglecting to add in parentheses the name 'Holmes' after 'he,' thus: 'and that he (Holmes) told,' etc." The note as thus amended would read thus:

"Arnold thinks he was 'cruelly whipped' [*Hist. R. I. i. 235*]. But Clarke says, 'It was so easy to me, that I could well bear it; yea, and in a manner felt it not'; and that he (Holmes) told the magistrates after it was over: 'You have struck me as with Roses' (*Ill. Neues*, etc., 22)."

It will be seen that Dr. Dexter's only anxiety in this correction is to make it appear that Holmes is speaking without substituting Holmes for Clarke. The garbled statement is allowed to stand. An "oversight," it is true, was committed in the preparation of this note, but it was not in omitting important parts of Holmes's statement by which the reader is misled, but in omitting Holmes's name after "he"!

Recently a new and cheaper edition of 'As to Roger Williams' has appeared. In a notice of this edition which appeared in the *Congregationalist*, Dr. Dexter's paper, there is a new emendation of this note in 'As to Roger Williams.' The writer, presumably Dr. Dexter, says: "The only inaccuracy alleged against it ['As to Roger Williams'] is founded upon the fact that on page 121 (in note 478), in citing from Clarke's *Ill. Neues from New England*, etc., the author wrote: 'Clarke says, 'It was so easy to me that I could well bear it,' etc.,' when he should have written: 'Clarke makes Holmes say: 'It was so easy to me that I could well bear it'; Holmes being the party concerned, and not Clarke, who was describing what occurred. This slight oversight was freely confessed and publicly corrected as soon as discovered.' The note as thus emended reads as follows:

"Arnold thinks he was 'cruelly whipped' [*Hist. R. I. i. 235*]. But Clarke makes Holmes say: 'It was so easy to me that I could well bear it; yea, and in a manner felt it not'; and that he told the magistrates after it was over: 'You have struck me as with Roses' (*Ill. Neues*, etc., 22)."

It will be seen that even in this second emendation no attempt is made to correct the misrepresentation of Holmes's statement which the note contains. Having said Clarke because he meant Clarke, and having at length discovered that this was a "slight oversight" after all, Dr. Dexter now endeavors to correct the note by saying: "Clarke makes Holmes say." But plainly this correction leaves the note in a more objectionable form than at the first; for not only is the reader misled, but Clarke is now made to appear as the garbler of Holmes's words, when, in fact, as a reference to Holmes's statement will show, it is Dr. Dexter himself, and not Clarke, who makes Holmes say, by omitting a part of his statement, what he did not say. Indeed he who runs may read that Clarke was not "describing what occurred," as Dr. Dexter affirms, but simply allowing Holmes, by the insertion of his long letter in *Ill. Neues*, to tell his own story.

We are also told that "this slight oversight was freely confessed and publicly corrected as soon as discovered." By "slight oversight" Dr. Dexter means his use of the words, "Clarke says," instead of "Clarke



makes Holmes say." As we have already shown, in his first notice of this criticism, and more than a year after the criticism was made, Dr. Dexter wrote, "I said Clarke because I meant Clarke, as I was referring in general to Clarke's book, which contained Holmes's letter." His correction "Clarke makes Holmes say," for "Clarke says," appeared during the past summer!

This is a "slight" matter, etc., it is true. It is not, however, a slight matter that the garbled statement "it was so easy to me," etc., in opposition to Arnold's view that Holmes was "cruelly whipped," is allowed to remain in 'As to Roger Williams.' That the quotation from Holmes in note 478 grossly misrepresents him is discoverable at a glance; but while Dr. Dexter has made two attempts to get the names right in the note, he has made no attempt to let the fact appear that the sentences quoted from Holmes give the reader of his book an entirely false impression. It should be remembered that 'As to Roger Williams' was written with the avowed purpose of correcting erroneous conceptions. An examination of this note and a review of Dr. Dexter's efforts to correct it, however, are not calculated to inspire confidence in Dr. Dexter's general fidelity as a historian. Indeed, in rising from our examination of this note and our review of Dr. Dexter's efforts to correct it, we find his own words in the preface of 'As to Roger Williams' mingling with our thoughts: "I must be allowed to think that any historian who shall go on to reproduce the former slanders in the face of the demonstration of their true character herein offered, must—unless he refute it—fairly be condemned as paying better fealty to indolence or prejudice than to the truth."

H. S. B.

PORTLAND, ME., Dec. 18, 1879.

## REASONS FOR BEING A DEMOCRAT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In your apparent search for the motives of men in belonging to the Democratic party, you have said nothing of tariff-reform and the next Presidential nominee. Revising the tariff seems to me not only the most important national issue, next to that of the currency, but the most probable one. There are doubtless many young men who became Democrats because two of the three leading dogmas of the Democracy were hard money and free-trade. They have found tradition, backed by common sense, too weak to keep the party sound on the money question, but they think Mr. Bayard's resolution a hopeful sign of returning sanity among his followers, and they believe that a Democratic Congress will do more for free-trade than a Republican one, partly because of tradition, partly because of reason, partly because we can elect a President without the vote of Pennsylvania and the Republicans cannot.

We must be positive to succeed, and ought to be positive whether we succeed or not. Mr. Tilden was nominated and elected President because he had administered the affairs of New York most ably, and because he had well-known and strong and right beliefs on national themes—the currency, civil-service reform, State-rights (*i.e.*, the right of local government), and free-trade. His chance of re-election to the office out of which he was legislated would be better if he had continued to identify himself with two or three great political issues instead of with one small one. Free-trade is a much better cry than fraud.

Mr. Bayard's political beliefs are as well known and as strong and as right as those of Mr. Tilden. He has maintained them steadily. If the Democratic party is wise enough to nominate him, I do not see how the group of Liberal Republican newspapers which the *Nation* heads, and the many Liberal Republicans whom the group represents, could avoid, or could wish to avoid, supporting him as against Grant or Blaine.

The facts that the Democracy is the party of free-trade, and that its possible nominee for the Presidency is Mr. Bayard, seem two very good reasons for being a Democrat.

Respectfully yours,

ALFRED BISHOP MASON.

CHICAGO, Dec. 14, 1879.

[On both these subjects our correspondent seems to be entering the domain of prophecy.—ED. NATION.]

## THE MAINE JUGGLING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The extraordinary result of the canvass of the votes cast at the recent Maine election gives rise to a number of questions, for answers to

which your readers will look rather to the *Nation* than to any other source. The ostensible reason for the result reached by the State officers is, that certain formalities required by law were not complied with in the case of the rejected returns. If such wholesale rejection of votes for these reasons were common occurrences, of course the matter would be readily explained. But how does it happen that the same result has never been known before? The following are the questions, an answer to which is necessary to a clear understanding of the subject:

1. Are the requirements of the Maine election laws exceptionally minute and exacting? If so, how did it happen that the same difficulty has not been met with before in canvassing the votes in this State? If not, how does it happen that other State elections are not constantly affected in the same way? In a word, what is there exceptional in the laws or customs of Maine which has brought about this result?

2. Was there an extraordinary number of blunders on the part of the returning officers in the Maine election?

3. How did it happen that the mistakes were all on the Republican side, so that their corrections all tended to the advantage of the Democrats? Is this not a fortuitous combination of circumstances without precedent?

4. What is the general tenor of law and precedent respecting the canvass of votes in which some formality has not been complied with? For instance, if the law requires that an officer shall make up his returns on a certain day, and he fails to do it until the day after, is there any law or custom which prescribes that his returns shall be thrown out? Such mistakes must be of constant occurrence, but we seldom hear of them. If it were decided that such votes must be thrown out, how easy it would be for men sympathizing with one party to nullify majorities against them by simply waiting over a day or omitting some minute requirement.

N. S.

WASHINGTON, December 22, 1879.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT MARYLAND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: As I was counsel in the contested election of 1875 for the Second Legislative District of this city, I deem it my duty to inform you that no person named J. T. Ringgold (or of any similar name) "was officially employed by both sides to make stenographic reports of the testimony taken in" that contest. The testimony in question was taken throughout by Mr. S. M. Stiles, of Philadelphia, and Mr. Ringgold (if there is any such person) had no connection whatever with the cause. His allegation, "Every negro arrested on that day had a revolver on his person," is a gross misstatement. I have at my office a *verbatim* copy of the evidence at the service of any one who chooses to examine it, which includes the depositions of numerous policemen and records the arrest of many negroes, but not one of the latter is said to have been armed.

I remain, sir, yours respectfully,

CHARLES J. BONAPARTE.

BALTIMORE, December 22, 1879.

[Mr. Ringgold's letter was written on paper bearing the imprint of the newspaper-office from which it professed to emanate, with his name as editor, if we remember aright. We beg our readers to observe that this is now the fifth letter we have printed on the subject of the late Maryland elections. If arriving at the facts in a given case is so difficult when the locality is so near to the North and so populous as Baltimore, with what caution ought we to receive statements of what takes place, say, among the swamps and bayous of Louisiana.—ED. NATION.]

## CHRONOLOGICAL CATALOGUING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: There is an error in the paragraph of your last number, p. 423, in calling "original" the plan of some one in *Il Buonarroti*, so far as he proposes a chronological arrangement of books on the shelves. There are at least two libraries known to me in which this is done in some fashion. In the Philadelphia Library books are primarily divided into four classes, folios, quartos, octavos, duodecimos, and then all books as they come in are arranged consecutively according to date of accession. This varies from an absolute chronological arrangement, because all newly acquired books may not be newly published books. At the University Library, Cambridge, England, for a certain portion of the library, a perfect chronological arrangement is carried out, all books published in 1863, for in-

stance, standing together. The scheme is not a bad solution of the difficulty which the receipt of *all* books under the copyright act casts upon a scholarly collection like that controlled by Mr. Bradshaw, himself an erudite scholar. From this mass of copyright accessions the fit books for the usual classifications are selected and assigned as their purchases would be. This, however, leaves much the larger bulk, which is simply arranged by years as received, and numbered under the years, so that a title in the catalogue showing 1859-72 points at once to the seventy-second place under that year. There might be many worse plans under the circumstances.

JUSTIN WINSOR.

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY, Dec. 19, 1879.

## Notes.

GINN & HEATH, Boston, will have ready next month a translation of Bender's 'Brief History of Roman Literature,' by Profs. Crowell and Richardson of Amherst; and 'Remnants of Early Latin,' by Prof. F. D. Allen, of Yale—both text-books.—Edward Stern & Co., of Philadelphia, publishers of the *Penn Monthly*, will begin on January 3, 1880, a supplement called *Weekly Notes*, consisting of comments on current news, and obtainable either separately or in connection with the *Monthly*.—We are informed that the *American Hebrew*, of this city, is now publishing weekly a translation of the Talmudic book on 'Idolatry,' by Rabbi De Sola Mendes, the first ever made into English.—An attempt "to help solidify the Yale influence which centres about New York City," and to increase the membership of the local Yale Alumni Association, has been made by this organization through Mr. Lyman H. Bagge, in a handy pocket 'Directory of New York Yale Men.' A list of nine similar associations is given in this pamphlet, and the addresses of the class secretaries from 1816 to 1878.—Among a number of worthy artistic journals the *Portfolio*, edited by Mr. Hamerton, is still the best issued in our language. The editor is the first who has written in English with absolute dispassionateness and competent appreciation when the claims of English and Continental art were to be pitted together, and he has employed etchers without living superiors to furnish the plates which form so exquisite a cabinet in the collected numbers. As the size of these plates is of importunate moment to those who collect and store art-works, we ought to say that Mr. Hamerton has hit a felicitous medium.—A few late arrivals of children's books must take their New Year's chances so far as mention here is concerned. Mrs. Molesworth's refined and gentle fancy invents a number of fairy tales with the alluring caption of 'The Tapestry-Room' (Macmillan), and Walter Crane furnishes the illustrations. Harriet Martineau's "historiette," 'The Hampdens,' has been reproduced in a pleasant form by Geo. Routledge & Sons, with designs by Millais. This is not a book for the youngest, but rather for children well in their teens. It deals, of course, with the stirring times of the English Revolution. Mr. B. P. Shillaber's 'Cruises with Captain Bob on Sea and Land' (Lee & Shepard) consists of an old salt's yarns to his young friends, and will be sure to interest and instruct the reader. 'Mrs. Partington's' humor pervades the book, but not obtrusively. 'The Otsego Chronicles,' by Mary B. Sleight (A. D. F. Randolph & Co.), is a moral tale containing numerous sound maxims like this: "No woman has a right to lead a man on to a declaration unless she means to accept him"; or this: "Cousins do sometimes marry, but it is not a prudent thing to do."—The fashion of Christmas annuals has in England survived a decade since the death of Dickens, who set it, but the flavor of holly and mistletoe and enforced jollity characteristic of his work in this line is passing away; in the latest attempt it is wholly imperceptible. 'The Stage-Door: Stories by those who enter it' (Geo. Routledge & Sons) is a collection of poems, tales, and personal reminiscence written by dramatists and actors; the papers of the former are light even for a publication of this kind; those of the latter are lighter still. The one contribution of any force is Mr. W. S. Gilbert's "Comedy and Tragedy," which he announces is to be used as the basis of a play. The initial portraits have a certain value. Another English yearly pamphlet is 'Tom Hood's Comic Annual,' which, as it has been briefly described, "is not now Hood's and never was comic." Its only contribution of value this year is a charming poem by Mr. Austin Dobson, a little out of his usual vein, but with his usual finish. On this side the water, *Puck* has put forth an "Annual," which is cleverly, and of course humorously, illustrated.—Prof. R. Bonghi, we learn from the *Athenæum*, has just completed a translation into Italian of Plato's entire writings, which he proposes to

publish by subscription. This achievement is a fresh proof of Signor Bonghi's varied intellectual ability.—The *Californian* is the title of a new review published by the A. Roman Publishing Company of San Francisco, and recalling in its general manner and aim the *Overland Monthly*. It promises well enough for us to wish it a more permanent success than its predecessor, though there is something distinctly amateurish about some of the contributed articles, and perceptible traces of the practised Bohemian in its trifles, which justify its assertion that it is to be "thoroughly Western in its character and local to this coast in its flavor." Its salutatory is a model of modesty, and announces that it "has no apology to offer for its existence" and "claims no aching void in the literary world which it is especially qualified or commissioned to fill."

—The second number of the *American Art Review* confirms the impression produced by the first one, and makes it evident that there will be a great deal of solid information, and that of a sort which our public needs, in the new periodical. The more permanent matters are treated of in the body of the number, the more temporary in the different "Chronicles" at the end. Thus, the *American Art Chronicle*, which occupies five of these large pages, and in smaller type, too, than that of the body, gives a long account of the Springfield (Ill.) monument to Abraham Lincoln, its present condition, how much it is costing, whence the money comes, and the like; fourteen other monuments finished, begun, or proposed are described and discussed; the newly-born Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, its nature, and the way it came to "arise from the ashes" of the Chicago Academy of Design, are fully considered; in short, we do not know where else to go for such information as is given here, and in a certain sense it is indispensable. We have lived without it, but how? If this chosen and sifted news proves trustworthy, and free from the inaccuracy of detail which is inseparable from the daily press (for who ever saw an account in a morning paper of anything in which he was personally concerned and did not find it full of little blunders?), the *Review* will find friends who cannot spare it, if only on this account. Of body articles, one by Mr. Perkins tells about the researches and discoveries at Olympia, of which the temple-architecture is second only to the best, and the sculpture second, perhaps, to none. A notice of the late William Hunt, apparently the first of a series, and headed "Personal Reminiscences," is naturally rather friendly and obituary than critical. It contains two admirable woodcuts by an engraver whose work we begin to look for with eagerness, Mr. Andrew. We have read with pleasure a really thoughtful paper by the editor, Mr. Koehler, expressing more hope than all of us can feel for the near future of the fine arts. The announcement of a very important discovery, for it is pretty much that, in Oiron faience, is translated from a German periodical. The most significant piece of criticism in the number is contributed by Mr. Ware in his second paper on the Washington Monument.

—The *North American Review* for January is introduced by an article on "The Inter-oceanic Canal," by M. de Lesseps, which, at this date, certainly calls for no particular comment. Of Mr. Parkman's reply to the five critics of his former article on Woman Suffrage, this may also be said perhaps, though we ought to call attention to a certain acidity of humor which characterizes it, and illustrates, we should say, Mr. Parkman's entire competence to deal with his opponents, so far, at all events, as the asides of dialectics are concerned. For instance, nothing could be neater than this at the close of his paper: "We do not like to be on terms of adverse discussion with women, or with men who represent them, and we willingly leave them the last word if they want it." The second part of Mr. Froude's "Romanism and the Irish Race in the United States," too, will probably be very successful in irritating persons who take sides strongly against Mr. Froude. It is not otherwise especially noticeable, but it shows that his great skill in stirring up the bile of Irishmen has no whit abated, but has rather been refined and polished to the extremity of effectiveness by constant practice. Part second of Mr. Mills's paper on "The Permanence of Political Forces" is given; an article on "The Metaphysics of Science," designed to show that there is a "realm of legitimate thought deeper than the data of physical science," is contributed by Professor Alexander Winchell; and Mr. Stoddard reviews "Recent Poetry." Mr. Henry James, Jr., has a critical article on Sainte-Beuve apropos of his recently published correspondence, which is quite in the vein of one of Sainte-Beuve's own "Portraits," and is, both in breadth of view and in nicety of perception, much more than a hap-hazard and hasty contribution to the literature of American criticism. More of such articles, even at the sacrifice of diaries of "Public Men" and



similar sensations, would be relished, we feel confident, by not a few readers of the *Review*.

—The *Atlantic* begins its forty-fifth volume with a larger page, larger type, paper without gloss, and sixteen more pages than it has had hitherto—all improvements, especially the new paper, which permits the magazine to be read at night with comfort and safety, as the old did not. The only change noticeable in the character of the contents is an apparent tendency towards making more of literary criticism than heretofore. The old department "Recent Literature" is, for this number at least, abandoned, but there are no fewer than five different articles on current books; one taking up recent novels, another holiday books, another Webster's Speeches, a fourth Gilman's Chaucer, and a fifth Daudet's "Les Rois en Exil" and Gualdo's "Un Mariage Excentrique." Mr. Howells begins a new story entitled "The Undiscovered Country," which is to run through six more numbers, with a very real account of a spiritualistic séance, the medium of which promises to be interesting as the heroine. In the opening instalment, little more than the introduction of the characters is accomplished, but it is safe to infer from the way in which this is done that Mr. Howells is sure of his ground. Some very readable "Reminiscences of Washington," relating to the period of John Quincy Adams's administration, are given by an anonymous contributor, who gossips about almost everything that occurred and every one who figured at the national capital between 1825-1829, and from whom more of the same sort is promised during the year. Mr. White discourses of "Habits of English Life"; Charles Egbert Craddock contributes a Western story that has verisimilitude; there is a review of the pictures at the Hunt Memorial Exhibition, by an enthusiastic admirer, and "The Bonanza Farms of the West" is an interesting account based on personal inspection and various statistics. Of the conclusion of "Thirty-seven Hundred and Fifty-eight" we make as little as we could of the beginning last month, and to many readers we feel sure that it will remain a mystery. An essay on "Equality" reviews the political history of the doctrine, and discusses at length its justice and practical wisdom, setting out rather theatrically with the "undeniable principle," in italics, "All men are created unequal"; what follows is not difficult to construct, or would not be if it were a little more definite. The poetry is contributed by Holmes, Whittier, W. W. Story, and Harriet Prescott Spofford. Dr. Holmes's verses are, if we may say so without invidiousness, considerably the best; on the other hand Mrs. Spofford's "Intermezzo" contains this stanza:

"Oh, how beautiful you are, my love!  
How your heart bounds with its tender yearning!  
How upon your lips, your cheeks, your eyes,  
The fragrant flame of your full life is burning!"

—*Harper's* for January opens with Keats's "Eve of St. Agnes," with nine large and carefully-studied illustrations by Mr. Abbey, all of which exhibit this artist's versatility, though some fall below his highest level. Mr. Frank Mayer follows with a light discourse on "Old Baltimore and its Merchants," accompanied by his own clever designs. A chapter on the reformatory epoch which marked the end of the third and the beginning of the fourth decade of the century in this country gives a rapid glance at American socialism, "come-outerism," second-adventism, the doctrine of non-resistance, the newer schools of medicine—Thomsonianism, homœopathy, hydropathy—temperance, Grahamism, woman's rights, phonography, etc., etc.; and each of these movements is illustrated with a portrait of a representative man or woman. Some of the very best engraving of the number is to be found among these likenesses—for example, Parker and Pierpont. Mr. A. A. Hayes, jr., continues his papers on Colorado with a very readable account of the sheep-raising industry, and again essays a balance-sheet for the benefit of the adventurous. Perhaps the best organized truant system in the country is described in the article on "Compulsory Education in Brooklyn," which, however, needs to be followed up by personal investigation if one seeks to be fully informed on the subject. There is a striking difference in the truant type of countenance as conceived by Mr. Sol Eytinge, jr., and his associate for this purpose, Miss Jessie Curtis. A better service at perhaps less expense would have been rendered by careful portraiture of one or two rows of heads fairly selected from the Attendance Schools and the Truant Home. M. de Lesseps's career as Minister at Rome in 1849 is briefly sketched by Mr. Edwin de Leon, with the aid of a fine portrait. Lastly, we shall mention, for its useful information palatably set forth, Mr. John Habberton's "First Families of the Atlantic," to wit, the cod, mackerel, herring, and other food fish of the eastern American waters, whose peculiarities

and habits have been fully described in the little-read report of the award of the Fisheries Commission.

—Mr. James, in the January *Scribner's*, concludes his "Confidence" by happily averting a tragedy and setting his foot on the national proclivity to divorce. In the present instalment of "The Grandissimes" we have vaudeism and blood-letting and more of the tender passion, and still, as we said in the beginning, one's head is giddied by the genealogical mazes of this remarkable family. Close beside this Louisiana romance the editor has placed a realistic account of the Acadians of the same State. Apparently they should not be thought of as a remnant of the exiles of Grand-Pré; at least the writer, Mr. R. L. Daniels, thinks they are not "passing away" except where the Yankee presses too closely on them; but physically they have deteriorated through excessive intermarriage, and being ignorant and priest-ridden and listless (though not idle) they are not highly valuable citizens, albeit seldom guilty of criminal offences. What we have found most suggestive in Mr. W. H. Bishop's "Young Artists' Life in New York" is his statement of the effect on themselves and on the stay-at-homes of the return of the native proficients from foreign schools. They find here a greater picturesqueness than they had dreamed of, sufficient facilities, if a little dear, for the artist life, and a position of authority awaiting them which they accept formally in professorships and informally by taking the initiative in all movements. It is a disappointment to find a great gap between the first and the second series of extracts from the Journal of Henry J. Raymond. From the Webster period we are transported perforce, the Journal itself being deficient, to war-time and the Fredericksburg campaign. It is still highly interesting reading, as showing the fatal nearness of the Army of the Potomac to the political capital, and the disastrous want of harmony between General Burnside and his subordinates. It will be strange if these extracts do not give rise to some controversy. Among the lighter papers is Mr. T. W. Higginson's "Revolutionary Congressman on Horseback" (William Ellery, one of the signers of the Declaration); Mr. William C. Church speaks with abundant knowledge of "American Arms and Ammunition"; and a paper on the "United States Life-Saving Service," by Mr. J. H. Merryman, probably does not presume too much on the willingness of magazine readers to listen at any time to well-written discourses on the dangers, discipline, and beneficence of this often-described institution.

—An anonymous writer contributes to *Lippincott's Magazine* for January a paper entitled "Forty Years Ago; or, Some Past Dangers to American Liberties." The past danger of slavery is the chief one considered, though those which forty years ago were thought likely to result from foreign immigration, Roman Catholic influence, "practical infidelity," and popular misrule, are also touched upon. The paper, indeed, is a review of the political situation in this country in 1840 and thereabouts, interspersed with reminiscences, and written sufficiently *currente calamo* to interest even the general reader in the condition of popular thought and the growth of a great popular movement, at what is now seen to have been one of the momentous periods of American history. Another serious article is a review of the international copyright question by Prof. Wm. F. Allen, who argues that the author's right of property in his own works rests "upon a consideration of the interests of both authors and the community," and proceeds upon that basis to discuss the controversy recently conducted in *Macmillan's Magazine*, favoring the view there taken by Mr. Conant, and defending his plan in the main against the English critic who attacked it. The rest of the number is light enough. The author of "Dorothy Fox" begins well a serial story entitled "Adam and Eve," and "Ouida" contributes an Italian sketch called "Umiltà," prettily conceived and effectively executed, though it is not altogether novel, and it has all the unmistakable ear-marks of "Ouida." For example, here is a speech made by the hero: "Make your girl come with you, or as sure as the figure of Christ hangs on yon cross I will wring her tongue out of her throat and nail it on your own house-door." It is needless to say that the girl goes with him, confesses that she has told a lie, everything is cleared up, Umiltà set free, and "Ouida" sees her "again go up between the stems of the pines in the glow of the lights amidst the cyclamens"—which means that she is out for a walk. The story would be better if it were shorter, but, as she remarks in the course of it concerning the recitations of Italian peasants, "Ouida" has "the defect of the uneducated—endless repetition."

—It may be something of a *tour de force* to convert so grave and compact a book as M. Rambaud's "History of Russia" into a popular history, but the real want of a continuous and complete narrative to serve as a setting for

the various sketches of Russian affairs now so frequent, may justify the attempt. The original we have already reviewed at length (No. 722 of the *Nation*). The first volume (out of three) of a translation by L. E. Lang, edited and enlarged by Nathan H. Dole, and published by Estes & Lauriat, Boston, comes down to Peter the Great. The third will carry on M. Rambaud's work from 1872 to the present time. The translation is fair as such things go. It has not the crispness of a spirited literal rendering, nor yet that ease and unity of effect which can give to such work a style of its own. It is hard to account for a preference which constantly substitutes remote and involved constructions for the simple straightforwardness of the French. The title-page premises "enlarged," but it would have been more just to M. Rambaud to indicate when and where. Chapter ii., for instance, has two or three pages inserted to the exclusion of as much of the original. The simpler spelling of the Russian words is a step in the right direction. An adequate transliteration for English eyes is still a desideratum.

—The current number of the *American Journal of Mathematics*, which is published under the auspices of the Johns Hopkins University, contains an account of a fundamentally new phenomenon in electricity, not explicable by anything hitherto known. The definition of the new action is not yet certainly made out; but it appears to be that if we say that the direction of a galvanic current is from the negative to the positive pole, then a magnet tends to deflect the current within the conductor in the same direction in which it tends to turn the conductor itself. This fact will be a complete surprise to physicists, and its importance to the theory of electricity can hardly be overestimated. The discoverer is Mr. E. H. Hall, assistant in the Laboratory of Professor Rowland, to whose encouragement and assistance the discovery was in a large measure due. It may justly be said that no discovery equally fundamental has been made within the last fifty years. Discoveries so novel have usually been in some degree the result of accident; but in this case elaborate and very delicate experiments were undertaken to ascertain whether or not any such phenomenon could be observed. The new force is exceedingly feeble, so that we cannot predict any practical applications for it.

—The same number of the *Journal* contains several other important papers, including three by the celebrated algebraist Sylvester. All of these afford salient examples "of the importance of the part played by the faculty of observation in the discovery of pure mathematical laws." There has been, perhaps, no other great mathematician in whose works this is so continually illustrated as in those of Professor Sylvester. An example of a mathematical proposition known to be true many years before any one succeeded in producing a demonstration of it, is the familiar fact that on any possible map, however complicated, the different countries may be distinguished from those which adjoin them by painting them in only four different colors. This has been known for a long time, but the first proof of it is given in the present number of the *Journal* by Mr. A. B. Kempe, well known for his investigations into linkage. The number also contains an explanation of the "curved ball" of the base-ball players, and a method for representing a space of four dimensions.

—Mlle. Marimon's appearance in Donizetti's "Figlia del Reggimento," which was given last Friday for the first time this season, was the leading event of last week's Italian opera. The prima donna gained the same popular success as in "Dinorah" and "Sonnambula." She sang the brilliant part of *Marie* in excellent style, and acted with finished grace and perfect taste. She was very well supported by Mr. Mapleson's company. The opera was well put on the stage and may be numbered as one of the few successes which Col. Mapleson has gained this season. Signor Del Puente was excellent as *Sulpizio*, and Signor Runcio was a very fair *Tonio*. Repetitions of "Dinorah," "Sonnambula," and "Aida," in which last-named opera Mlle. Ambre is exceedingly interesting, filled the remaining evenings of the week.

—Since his return from a tour in the country Mr. Joseffy has given a series of pianoforte recitals in Chickering Hall, which in every respect fully sustain the high opinion that we formed of him at his first appearance. His programme, though rich in itself, is not of a very varied character, the principal numbers being always taken from the compositions of the most modern school; yet he has given such excellent proofs of what he can do with Bach and Handel, and other masters of the old school, that we should be glad to hear more of the beautiful productions of the fathers of pianoforte music. Beethoven, too, is sadly conspicuous by his absence from Mr. Joseffy's programmes, although the latter's superb rendering of the E flat Concerto, the greatest composition for piano-

forte ever written, has convinced us that he is perfectly qualified to interpret the best works of the classical school. Mr. Joseffy is advertised to play in the third Philharmonic concert. We hope he will surprise and delight his audience with some great composition in which he has not been heard here.

—The programme of the second concert of the New York Philharmonic Society was, with the exception of some slight difference in the vocal numbers, the same as that performed at the Brooklyn Society's concert last Tuesday week. It was a programme of a peculiarly harmonious and consistent character, and Mr. Thomas must have been in very good humor when he selected a series of orchestral compositions of so bright and cheerful a character as those performed on Saturday last. The first number, Beethoven's festival overture, "Consecration of the House," which was composed for the occasion of the opening of the Josephstadt Theatre in Vienna, where it was performed for the first time in 1822, is at all times a delightful introduction to a symphony concert. The second orchestral number was a novelty: Prelude, Menuet, and Fugue, by Hugo Reinhold. This pretty little composition produced, even at first hearing, a most agreeable impression. It is full of graceful harmonies and pleasing melodies sure to take with a general audience, but we can safely predict that the work will not secure a lasting place on the programmes of our classical concerts. It is weak, lacking in originality and character, and, as it is for string instruments only, the absence of the fine and graphic effects of light and shade produced by the wind instruments is keenly felt. The menuet, for instance, with the trio which follows, is a charming little piece of filagree work, but it becomes positively tedious at a second and third hearing of the endless pianissimo and pizzicato passages. The third movement, the fugue, is decidedly the best of the whole work; it is more manly and broad in conception, and affords some relief to the sweet monotony of the first two movements. Mr. Thomas's string orchestra was admirable in every movement of the composition. After Mr. Reinhold's humdrum phrases Schumann's beautiful First Symphony (B flat, Op. 38) came like a spring morning, and was received with the same delighted enthusiasm which it always excites. Mr. Thomas's superb rendering fully deserved the warm appreciation of his audience. Wagner's stately introduction to the "Meistersinger," given with a spirit of dignity and intelligence that would gratify even the exacting caprices of the great master himself, brought a delightful evening to a worthy close. The vocalists of the concert were Mlle. Valleria and Sig. Galassi. Mlle. Valleria selected imprudently the celebrated scene from the second act of "Oberon," "Ocean! Thou mighty Monster!" which is altogether above her natural and acquired abilities. She must draw her line at Gounod's "Faust"; she cannot go a step beyond. She was less ambitious and far more fortunate in her choice at Brooklyn, where she sang Mendelssohn's "Infeice" in a very acceptable manner. Sig. Galassi sang the "Evening Star" from "Tannhäuser" as perhaps no living Italian artist could interpret the spirit of chaste simplicity of this noble composition.

—It is so important to our stage, as well as to our fine arts, that a measure of historical correctness should be introduced in the accessories, instead of the glaring faults now patent in everything the scene-painter or the historical painter sets his hand to, that a work such as Racinet's "Costume Historique" arrives like a peculiar blessing (New York: J. W. Bouton). M. Racinet's assiduity and knowledge are proved and indisputable. In the seven numbers of "Costume" now issued we have noticed but one case in which his archaeological care has been imposed on, and that is in the reproduction in the fourth number of a so-called painting from the Baths of Titus, representing an ancient bathing-scene, which has been proved to be an invention of the sixteenth-century architect, Rusconi, by J. Marquardt ("Handbuch der römischen Alterthümer"). The twenty parts which will complete the work, seven having now appeared, will contain five hundred plates, mostly printed in suitable colors and metals, and each of these plates presents on an average about ten human figures, so that several thousand costumes, from the rarest and most authentic documents, will be in the possession of the art-lover who owns the work. In the seventh number are to be seen Bertelli's analyses of Venetian dresses, wherein the waist was lengthened and the feet supported on lofty pattens, concealed in the skirts, explaining the apparition of little-headed giantesses in some of the paintings of Veronese (for further examples of which see Charles Yriarte's "Venice"); also an interesting page of a dozen or more "Nuremberg eggs," or antique watches. It is easier to say that the costumes are of every age and country than to particularize their surprising variety of period and nationality. The work is com-



piled with elegance and with conscience, and is interesting to nearly all, indispensable to many.

—A luxurious affair, *Le Trésor Artistique de la France*, which has come to a temporary or final pause at its twelfth number, exhibits an artful and mysterious application of photography; by means of an enamel glaze, beneath which colors are flushed over the underlying surfaces of gold or silver, the representation of Cellini jewelry or Limousin enamel is given with a perfection and delicacy not before approached. Mr. Christern represents the publication, which really needs the full explanation of this wonderful style of reproduction at the hands of the inventors to remove the suspicion of alchemy or black art. The treasures represented really seem to be created over again.

#### NILS ADOLF ERIK NORDENSKIÖLD.\*

THE subject of this notice is known to American readers chiefly as the indefatigable head of the Swedish expedition which in the present year has accomplished the Northeast Passage by sea, and, in the *Vega*, is at this writing engaged in completing the circumnavigation of the continents of Europe and Asia. Few, except special students, may be aware that success in this extraordinary voyage was hardly needed to entitle him to the first place among living explorers of the Polar region; or that, measured by solid scientific contributions to general and detailed knowledge of the Arctic basin between Baffin's Bay and Bering Strait, his record is wholly unparalleled by that of any other traveller. Accounts of the nine different Arctic expeditions in which Prof. Nordenskiöld has taken part during the last twenty years have appeared and become familiar to those interested in Arctic matters. That they are less known to the general reader is accounted for by the fact that they have chiefly appeared in the Swedish and German languages, or been summarized in geographical journals. It is, therefore, with no little satisfaction that we welcome the appearance of a translation by Alexander Leslie of extracts from the above-mentioned publications, giving in a condensed form the essential facts and most interesting results made known through these expeditions, with some illustrations and maps, preceded by a semi-autobiographical sketch of Nordenskiöld himself. The matter of the volume is so interesting, even to those not especially devoted to Arctic matters, that the reader finds the singular clumsiness of the translation, numerous typographical errors, and the for the most part inferior illustrations, chiefly noticeable because unusual in the publications of the Messrs. Macmillan, and insufficient to interfere seriously with his enjoyment of the text. For the various expeditions our readers are referred to the work itself, the space at command being perhaps more suitably utilized in laying before them a short account of the man.

Nils Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld (pronounced Nord enshölt), the third child of Nils Gustaf Nordenskiöld, was born at Helsingfors, the capital of Finland, Nov. 18, 1832. He came of a race distinguished since the latter part of the seventeenth century for daring endeavor and scientific acquirements. Among them were mining engineers, soldiers, alchemists, scientific farmers. One, who in 1743 had the audacity to propose perpetual peace between Christian nations to the Empress of all the Russias, died excommunicated by the clergy of Finland; another, a chemist and abolitionist, died at Sierra Leone from injuries received from the blacks during an attempt at colonization, undertaken with the view of forming a free negro state. The family was ennobled in 1751, and Colonel Adolf Gustaf Nordenskiöld, of the next generation, built on his property of Frugord, in Finland, a peculiar residence, the central portion of which contained a large hall with a gallery, around which were arranged collections of natural history. A sepulchral mound in the park surrounding the house formed the last resting-place of several members of the family. The atmosphere of old Norse days pervaded Frugord, and cannot have been without influence on the lives of those sons of the race who, like Adolf Erik, were reared there.

Nils Gustaf, the father, a distinguished mineralogist, was Councillor of State and Chief of the Mining Department of Finland, to the development of which and to scientific mineralogy he devoted thirty years of study and travel. His son, while yet a boy, became an indefatigable collector of minerals and insects, and often accompanied the father in his geological journeys. From the care of a private tutor he passed to the gymnasium at Borgo, whose freedom from discipline permitted him during his first year to distinguish himself "only by absolute idleness." Subsequently, however, his self-respect came to his rescue, and a still

larger measure of freedom, granted by his parents without reproach for previous deficiencies, resulted in industrious and successful study. Trouble between the authorities and students of the gymnasium having arisen in the eventful year of 1848, young Nordenskiöld, with many others, left the school. In 1849 he entered the University of Helsingfors, and passed his candidature examination in 1853, after which he undertook a mineralogical journey with his father to the Ural, a further excursion through Siberia being rendered impracticable by the breaking out of the Crimean War. On his return he entered with zeal into chemical and mineralogical studies, obtained his degree as licentiate in 1855, and began in the same year to publish original researches in his favorite branches and also upon natural history. Several appointments carrying a small salary rewarded his exertions.

At this time the condition of Finland, from a Russian point of view, was anomalous. Her affections bound her strongly to Sweden. A perfect freedom in expression of opinion was universal, while conspiracies and secret societies were unknown. The rigid rule of old Russia had never been put in force in Finland. When, therefore, a disciplinarian of the true Russian type was, on the outbreak of war, assigned to the Governor-Generalship of Finland, his unfamiliarized ear heard only plots and treason in the careless words of rollicking students warm with wine. A detected spy, himself a student, soon found the university too hot to hold him. Imprudent words at a later frolic brought about among other results, a scapegoat being required, the dismissal of young Nordenskiöld, who proceeded by way of St. Petersburg to Berlin, where he became a worker in the laboratory of Rose, and formed the acquaintance of many eminent men of science. Returning to Finland in the summer of 1856, he was awarded a stipend for a tour of study through Europe. Before departing he was to attend the "Promotion Festival," at which he was to receive the degree of M.A., with the first place among those entitled to it; and of doctor, with the second place in that list. At the invitation of the young graduates a deputation from the Swedish universities of Upsala and Lund, consisting of a professor and five eminent younger academicians, was to be present at the festival. These guests from the dear mother country were received with words of honor and welcome, whose warmth to the Russian Governor-General smacked but too strongly of treason, which existed only in his own imagination. This Count von Berg, a stranger to the country he governed, never was able to comprehend the co-existence of the despotic rule of Russia and the habit of freedom, centuries old, which then actually prevailed in Finland. An imprudent speech at a banquet given to the departing guests, denounced as treason by Von Berg; retirement to Frugord, and finally to Sweden, assisted by an old passport; a judgment, hasty and possibly illegal, depriving Nordenskiöld of the right ever to hold office in the university, followed in quick succession.

This was the turning point in his life. Received by the illustrious Mosander with great cordiality, although the latter highly disapproved of the liberal views which had brought such trouble upon the young student, Nordenskiöld devoted himself to earnest study, and in 1858 began his career of Arctic adventure by taking part in Torell's first expedition to Spitzbergen. A subsequent visit to Finland, and an unsatisfactory interview with Von Berg, led to his exclusion from his native land until a change of governors took place. This was of the less consequence, since it had been understood before leaving Stockholm that he was to return there to take the place at the Riks-Museum left vacant by the death of Mosander. In consequence of his exertions the mineralogical cabinet under his care has become one of the most considerable in Europe. In 1861 he took part in Torell's second expedition to North Spitzbergen. On his return, the removal of Von Berg permitted him to revisit Frugord, where his mother had passed away, the opportunity of soothing her last moments having been denied her son.

In July, 1863, he married Anna Mannerheim, daughter of ex-President Count Carl Mannerheim, of Finland, a lady whose good sense, varied accomplishments, and strength of character combined to make the union most happy and congenial. In 1864 he led an expedition fitted out by the Academy to Spitzbergen, with a view of measuring an arc of the meridian and completing Torell's survey of 1861. In 1868, aided by the Government and by Oscar Dickson, the Mæcenas of Sweden, he carried a small iron steamer to the highest latitude known to have been attained in the eastern hemisphere by any vessel; also bringing back rich collections. With a view of preparing for future journeys, he undertook, at Mr. Dickson's cost, a voyage to Greenland in 1870. As the son of a native Swedish nobleman, soon after being naturalized in Sweden, he sat in the House of Nobles, and became the Liberal representative of Stockholm in

\* "The Arctic Voyages of Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld, 1858-1879." Pp. xiv. 447, 8vo, maps and cuts. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. 1879.

the Diet from 1869 to 1871. In 1872 he led a new Polar expedition to Spitzbergen, wintering there in imminent peril of starvation from the detention of the provision-tenders with their crews, and from having to relieve a large number of shipwrecked walrus hunters. In 1875 he made his way with little difficulty to the Yenisei in a small sailing-vessel, which was sent back, while Nordenskiöld and several companions ascended the river to Yeniseisk and reached home by an overland journey, after having opened a commercial route of the greatest importance to Northern Siberia. In 1876, after visiting America in the capacity of a juror at the International Exhibition at Philadelphia, he repeated the journey to the Yenisei and returned to Europe by sea. In July, 1878, he sailed on the voyage which culminated during the past summer in the accomplishment of the Northeast Passage.

The results of all this activity are unparalleled. The least important of his voyages has been more productive than the immense expeditions of Becher and Nares, in all that goes toward increasing our knowledge of the conditions and products characteristic of the Arctic seas. Even in geographical research the fruits have been great, while no time has been lost in theorizing about an open Polar Sea or paleocystic formations. Nordenskiöld's career has been throughout a striking exemplification of the success of scientific methods urged on by well-directed energy and the fire of individual enthusiasm trained, but not subdued, by long experience. To those enjoying the privilege of his acquaintance, appreciation of his work is heightened by the personal charm of a *bonhomie* and freedom from conventionality left untainted by that self-estimation which might be so readily pardoned in one who, like Adolf Erik Nordenskiöld, may be said to have formed a habit of success.

#### RECENT NOVELS.\*

IT has rarely been our lot to read two sillier and more vulgar books than 'Vic' and 'Mr. Phillips's Goneness.' What greater waste of type and paper can there be than to print such stuff—the chronicles of the drunken employees of a country printing-office, a poor boarding-house, and of love (so-called) and matrimony founded on nothing and coming to nothing. 'Vic' is more melodramatic, more impossible, more *flash*, but as vulgar as futile. Better to "listen to the flapping of the fire," to discuss the thermometer, to collect bent pins, better any quiet method of wasting one's life than to read such books. "The Danbury News Man" has done better things. Nobody excels him in his descriptions of hens or of house-cleaning; but we recommend long abstinence from pen and paper as the beginning of a cure. Before he dies he may again have something to say.

'The Tribulations of a Chinaman' is a very lively extravaganza, and, as the scene is laid at our antipodes, we are not so much shocked with the topsy-turvy quality which inheres in this sort of book. The moral is definite, but so skillfully wrapped up in absurdities of all sorts as not to be offensive to the lightest reader.

Christian Reid is a voluminous writer of romances which apparently find readers. It would probably puzzle a foreigner making his first acquaintance with English literature through her novels to imagine in what part of the English-speaking world they had their origin, and we have often wondered to what country or province and to what age such a foreigner would probably assign them. They belong really to a world of their own. It is a world in which there are fine old estates the owners of which are travelling about in search of amusement, letting their places go to rack and ruin, flirting desperately, fighting duels occasionally, and behaving generally in a thoroughly frivolous manner, until a casual meeting with the heroine changes their whole nature and makes them serious men and devoted lovers, and, after all sorts of misadventure and unhappiness, fortune smiles on the happy pair at the end of the volume. It is a world, moreover, in which there are "gentle belles" to fall in love with the wandering heirs at the same time the wandering heirs fall in love with them, and to suffer in the quiet, patient way in which gentle belles suffer through nine-tenths of this volume. It is a world in which "fast" young women, just grown up, receive young men in "boudoirs," carry on numerous flirtations, and engage, disengage, and re-engage themselves at pleasure, and altogether do what they please. It is a world in which ideas of romance peculiar to the last century seem

to be very inharmoniously mingled with the hard realism of the present day; in which we never feel sure whether the author has derived her experience of life from reading Sir Walter Scott or the *Herald's* Newport correspondence. There is only one quarter of the globe which could produce such a novel as 'A Gentle Belle.' For fear of fomenting sectional strife we will not mention it by its geographical designation, but merely say that it is neither in Europe, Asia, Africa, nor Oceanica. The plot of 'A Gentle Belle' is simple enough, though it is intended by the author to be complicated. Vincent Dering, dying at Florence, leaves behind him a young and beautiful daughter, Alma. Just as her father was lying at the point of death, Dare Singleton, the son of an old friend, not knowing the condition of Mr. Dering, had called at the Dering villa, and is invited in to witness the old gentleman's will. This is the beginning of the acquaintance between Dare Singleton and Alma. By her father's will Alma is to live half the time with her sister, Mrs. Hamilton, a designing woman of the world and a particular friend of the hitherto "flirtatious" Dare, and half the year with some relatives named Digby. Singleton falls in love with Alma, while Mrs. Hamilton determines that she shall make quite a different marriage. For the purpose of breaking up Alma's growing interest in Dare her sister "exposes" an old flirtation of his with one Ida Palfrey. Ida has been playing fast and loose with Alfred Lennox, and appearances are rather against Dare, whose behavior, it must be confessed, is far from exemplary. Meanwhile Gerard Digby, who the experienced novel-reader sees from the first is too good and noble to live very long, falls in love with Alma, and Lennox and Singleton fight a wholly unnecessary duel, and Alma, believing Singleton faithless, engages herself to Digby. After the duel Singleton disappears and roams over the world, and at length his yacht is driven upon the coast in a storm: Digby loses his life in saving that of his rival, the lovers are reconciled, and Mrs. Hamilton, who is convicted of having purposely destroyed a letter which would have prevented any misunderstanding between them, is utterly discomfited. A husband is found for Ida Palfrey in Philip Lindsay, and so the story ends. It is not a powerful or engrossing tale, but, as illustrating the danger of flirtation and the power of true love, and enforcing the sanctity of private correspondence, may be read with profit.

A love story, with the scene laid in Syria among the missionaries, is rather a novelty in literature. The heroine, Irene Grant, a good but poor girl, goes out with Mr. and Mrs. Payson to labor among the missionaries, and comes back after a few trifling adventures as the wife of Hubertsen De Vries, of Albany. This is the sum and substance of the story, though there are, of course, other characters—a poker-playing consul, of the sort that it is the fashion now to put into novels, ignorant of all languages, customs, laws, and religions but his own, but getting along well enough in any country to which he may be accredited through his imperturbable good-humor and kindness. The consul, it should be said, falls in love with Irene, as does also Dr. Macklin, who is more natural and life-like than some of the other characters in the book. There are a good many people connected with missionary life who are virtuous, but tedious, as is also much of the descriptive writing of the author. Saada, the little Syrian girl whom De Vries succeeds in making miserable in an interval of his love-affair with Irene, is rather an attractive sketch. We regret to say that the author's sentiments are not as patriotic as they should be. What are we to say of this?—"I suspect also that in our American society there is no young gentleman so grand and so redoubtable in the eyes of a poor girl as the young gentleman who has a great deal of money. No matter for native dignity, for conscious worth of character, for noble or even sacred purposes in life. They all seem to fail, alas! and to hide diminished countenances in presence of a fact which appeals to the natural desires and strong needs of feminine nature." There must be some mistake about this.

Mrs. Edwardes is the author of several clever novels, of which the best is 'Ought We to Visit Her?' She showed in that a great deal of cleverness, managed her story well, discriminated her characters so that they could be identified by other means than the recurrence of the same name (a feat by no means universal with female novelists), and generally succeeded in exciting an interest in her tale which she sustained to the end. Without meaning to speak positively, we shall, as a tribute inspired by a recollection of her previous tales, suggest that 'Vivian the Beauty' is probably the worst story that Mrs. Edwardes ever wrote. It relates to the loves of a little English girl living in Schloss Egmont, in one of "the

\* 'Vic': A Novel. By A. Benrimo. New York: The Author's Publishing Company.

'Mr. Phillips's Goneness.' By James M. Bailey. "The Danbury News Man." Boston: Lee & Shepard.

'The Tribulations of a Chinaman in China.' From the French of Jules Verne, by Virginia Champlin. Boston: Lee & Shepard.

'A Gentle Belle.' By Christian Reid. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1879.

'Irene the Missionary.' Boston: Roberts Brothers. 1879.

'Vivian the Beauty.' By Mrs. Annie Edwardes. [Handy-Volume Series.] New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1879.



remoter valleys of the Hüllenthal," and her German instructor, Wolfgang, who in the end turns out to be no other than Paul von Egmont, the heir of the great Egmont estate. The story is very hastily constructed, and there are many points in it which we should like to have cleared up were it not for a lack of interest in knowing what the result would be. Mrs. Edwardes introduces into her story a London beauty of the "professional" variety, who expresses her admiration of things by exclaiming, "How quite too awfully jolly!" and, on hearing Talleyrand mentioned, begs that "if the great Talleyrand—whoever that venerable duffer may be—is still alive," her entertainer will "have him over to Schloss Egmont." Vivian may be shortly described as grossly rude, vulgar, envious, deceitful, "loud," and lacking everything that makes a woman attractive except physical beauty. But we are unwilling to believe in her existence. Mrs. Edwardes has taken her not from real life, but from the "fashionable weeklies."

Notwithstanding the title, 'Castle Foam' is a serious work of fiction, with a plot of the most elaborate character, founded apparently upon some Russian historical incident or legend. It is not easy reading, though it must have been hard writing, owing to a difficulty the author has in appreciating the effect of motives on the human character, and a defective education in ethics and criminal law. A great deal of the story hinges upon the consequences of the murder of Count Kramareff by a young soldier. The young man clearly killed Count Kramareff because Count Kramareff was just about to kill him; and, however unfortunate, the act was justifiable homicide under the laws of all civilized states and in the forum of morals. No doubt, in Russia at the time, it placed the soldier in an awkward predicament, but it need not have caused him much remorse. The best thing in the story is the love episode of Kathi-Chichkani and the prince. The ramifications of the plot are difficult to follow, and must have involved an enormous amount of misdirected labor on the part of the author.

'The Markets of Paris' is called M. Zola's favorite novel, and the reason for his preference is not far to seek, since it is, so far as our acquaintance with his books goes, the most successful and the subtlest study he has made of one of those colorless characters which offer few or no salient points to most students of life, but whose delineation always tasks the highest powers of the novelist of the first class. The heroine, Lisa, belongs to the Macquart branch of the Rougon-Macquart family—with different members of which all of M. Zola's books are concerned—and unites in herself her father's selfishness and her mother's industry; she may be called, in fact, the embodiment of the reasons which led to her parents' marriage. Her "enlightened self-interest" assures her that it is in the orderly paths of life that comfort dwells, and it is only by the unwisdom of disorder, weakness, poverty, and sin that so poignant a passion as anger is aroused in her. Her husband's brother, an escaped exile, suddenly reappears one day. Lisa is at once ready to divide with him the inheritance which her husband received from his uncle, and is displeased at the arrangement between the two brothers which leaves it all in her hands and gives Florent a home with them. Her dislike of her brother-in-law begins with her aversion to any one who has suffered such hardships; that he has suffered unjustly, and that his character is noble, only emphasizes her general sense of a hopeless muddle where everything should be clear. His willingness to live without work, although he does not spend a tithe of what belongs to him, increases this aversion by offending her sense of the necessity of work in any well-ordered life, and in one way and another she forces him to accept a position under the government which he hates as his persecutor. He is drawn into a revolutionary society, which she discovers, and, frightened for the safety of her family, she denounces him to the police, who are already in possession of her story through anonymous letters from the neighbors. Florent is transported, and Lisa quiets her conscience by reflecting that her course was open, and that her brother-in-law had already been denounced, and above all by the return to the quiet and orderly life that had been interrupted. There is nothing contemptible in Lisa, it is to be remarked. She is one of the elements of society, and a product of civilization; though an incarnation of selfishness, from sheer force of selfish wisdom she escapes the patent failings of characters superficially similar; she has, indeed, the garnered worldly wisdom of ages, and might be offered to Mr. Mallock as an example of the passion with which "honesty is the best policy" may be worshipped, or to some of his critics as an example of the tragedy such a character develops

when brought into contact with a life ordered by ideas which, however completely they may prefigure the wisdom of the future, nevertheless threaten the comfort secured by the wisdom of the past. Like the rest of his books, 'The Markets of Paris' shows M. Zola committed to a theory of novel-writing, but, unlike some of them, it shows his ability, when he is at his best, to sink his theorizing in an acute and dispassionate study of life and character. The details of the story, aside from the development of its principal character, are even slighter than is usual with him.

As a work of construction 'The Conquest of Plassans' is much more deft and elaborate, though here as elsewhere with M. Zola the pleasure to be derived is gratification at the solution, or at least the adequate presentation, of a problem, social and individual. The character study here, however, though highly refined, is subordinated to the exigencies of a plot with reasonable rigor. No abstract of it can give the play of opposing motives in its different personages, but we may indicate these in a brief outline: An ambitious and arrogant priest, a tool of the Empire, is sent to Plassans to win over the town to the Government. His first conquest is over the simple minds of the Mouret husband and wife, the former of whom belongs to the Macquart and the latter to the Rougon branch of the Rougon-Macquart family. Side by side with the action of the story runs the development of the family antagonism between these two, Mouret and Marthe, due to the wife's unconscious love for the priest. This love is disdained and dreaded; but she is a necessary tool to the Abbé Faujas, and he uses her to gain control over Plassans. Through her love and his mother's acquisitiveness he is gradually installed as the head of the Mouret family, and his sister and her husband take up their abode in the house and begin a system of general pilfering. Marthe's constitutional hysteria is aggravated by the life of excitement she leads; her nervous convulsions, in which she beats and injures herself, give rise to the suspicion that her husband intends to murder her; and Mouret himself, who inherits the weak physical nature of their grandmother—Mr. Spencer would be charmed with M. Zola—becomes so frightened and moody that their friends hurry him into an insane asylum. The abbé's plots are successful, and he is able to return the Government's candidate. Marthe is spurned by him, and after a visit to her husband her weak nerves succumb at the terrible sight of his insanity, and she dies that night. Mouret manages to escape, returns to his old home, and, finding it in possession of the Faujas people, burns it to the ground in a frenzy, and perishes with the priest in the flames.

'The Last Athenian' is an historical novel that recalls in some sort both 'Hypatia' and Bulwer's classic romances. It is probably fully as accurate a reproduction of certain features of the fourth century as Kingsley's work is of Neo-Platonism, and its Swedish authorship is perhaps accountable for its superiority to such works as 'The Last Days of Pompeii' in simplicity and straightforwardness. It is in effect an exaltation of the Donatists and Novatians over the Roman Church, and the exceedingly slight love-story is sacrificed to the development of a republican philosophy of Christianity, which is the point of the book. Its bulk is swelled—to an extent which induces sympathy and admiration for the translator—by numerous platitudes and a fulness of trite description which remind one of the criticism of the Japanese on the French Salon: "These pictures are of course intended to instruct the children; show me your best—where the imagination is excited by a suggestion."

'The Prehistoric World' may pass for a historical novel also. It will, probably, have some difficulty in finding its audience, since, on the one hand, students of the bearings of the great scientific discoveries doubtless prefer to construct their own pre-historic romance; and, on the other, the ordinary omnivorous reader, who could easily be interested in a strictly scientific work, is hard to catch with facts arranged on the thread of a romance which drags as a story, and in which he is unable to sift out the fact that may be held to, from the invention of the novelist's fanciful license. The book is divided into three separate stories: 'The Parisians of the Stone Age,' 'The Age of Polished Stone,' and 'The Age of Metals,' of which the last is much the most interesting.

Mrs. Wister's translations from the German are better known by her name than by those of their several authors, and a new translation by her is as sure of a welcome as if the merits of the original were already notorious. 'In the Schillingscourt,' by E. Marlitt, has the usual elements of the older German novel of the present day; the grave and stern hero main-

'Castle Foam; or, the Heir of Meerschbaum. A Russian Story. By H. W. French.' Boston: Lee & Shepard; New York: Charles T. Dillingham. 1880.  
'The Markets of Paris. By Emile Zola. Translated by John Stirling.' Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers. 1879.

'The Conquest of Plassans.' Same author and publishers.  
'The Last Athenian. From the Swedish of Victor Rydberg by William W. Thomas, jr.' Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers. 1879.  
'The Prehistoric World. From the French of Elie Berthet by Mary J. Safford.' Philadelphia: Porter & Coates. 1879.  
'In the Schillingscourt. From the German of E. Marlitt by Mrs. A. L. Wister.' Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1879.

tains an agreeable and lively game of fencing with the haughty heroine, till it is finished on the last page by a happy marriage. In this instance a complication results from the circumstance that the hero is already married to a woman selected for him by his father because of her wealth, but this is easily arranged by the *deus ex machina* of a divorce. It is noticeable that discussion of all sorts, from Socialism to decorative art, is beginning to push its way into the regions of such pure romance as Marlitt's stories, with the effect of making them more unreal and far less agreeable.

'In Prison and Out' might have been a study of life among the poor of London, but is, instead, a story which we owe to the imagination of the author, having but a slight hold on reality. David Fell is forced, through his mother's poverty and his own ignorance of any useful art, to beg for their support; he is arrested under the Vagrant Act and hastily condemned to three months' imprisonment, and upon his release he is re-committed for two years upon a false charge, to which the fact that he is a jail-bird gives weight. From that time on he becomes one of the "dangerous classes," and finally ends his life in prison. What might have been done to save him is shown by the example of another boy who steals the money of a poor man who has befriended him and who refuses on humanitarian grounds to prosecute him. The boy is pushed along by one friend and another, becomes captain of a ship, and adds insult to injury by marrying David's sister, the story ending in a general happiness that it is plain we don't deserve. The melancholy truth is, however, that both boys became thieves, the girl went to the bad, and old Euclid and his daughter, after the loss of their money, had to come on the parish for the coffins which it was their sole ambition to furnish for themselves. A course of Zola may at least be confidently commended to "Hesba Stretton."

Three good stories which have heretofore appeared in *Lippincott's Magazine* are published anonymously under the title of 'Women's Husbands.' The first is 'The Barber of Midas,' in which the course of true love is obstructed by the curiosity and meddling fussiness of a man who is intended to show that these traits are not exclusively feminine ones, and who fulfils the mission not too obtrusively. 'The False Prince' portrays the struggles of a snobbish man to hide his vulgar antecedents. In 'Narcissus,' the third and best, the hero alienates by his self worship the woman whom he loves, and marries her who only reflects his image. The latter dies, but he loses his second chance from the same cause, and passes his life in unsatisfied longing for he knows not what.

Miss Olney's novel may be divided into two distinct parts as regards excellence of workmanship. The coquette in her different influences upon the men who surround her, though not strictly novel, is nevertheless thoroughly well done; but the contrasted heroine, who is intended to be everything that is good and high, is often absurd, from her introduction as a child of eleven in command of a large house and a retinue of servants, including her grandfather, to the complication of her marriage, the misunderstanding of which is unnaturally and disagreeably prolonged.

There is nothing very remarkable to notice in "'A Man's a Man for a' That'" except the extravagance of its naïveté. The struggling young hero masters Greek in three months, is graduated at Harvard, and immediately acquires a law practice which brings him in the pittance of eight thousand dollars a year; but as he is the son of a farmer, society, of course, shuts its doors in his face. He marries the daughter of a banker ruined by the Portland fire. This young lady, fresh from enforced school-teaching, finds her husband's income of ten thousand dollars in a country where they have no society very restricted, and when their son is born their condition is so pitiable that the authoress has to relent and unearth from the ruins of the Portland fire a safe containing a will which enriches them by a million, and puts them beyond the reach of absolute want. Somehow or other, too, the social ban that has been crushing them is raised.

'Di Cary' is almost as ingenuous in its own way. It is a story of the South since the war, in which Yankee thrift is much praised and the necessity for something like it in the Southern gentleman broadly hinted at. The Yankee always appears with his tool-box, and casually gives the Southerner a practical lesson to the effect that a stitch in time saves nine by mending every bridge they pass over, accompanying his work the

while by a lecture upon its usefulness. We note some rare toilets; one young lady wears a silk waist and tulle bonnet and fan on horseback, and the heroine receives a morning call in a blue lawn dress "fresh from the ironing-table," with a wreath of roses on her brow.

'A Fool's Errand' is a political story, dealing with what is in general indefinitely described as the Southern problem. The Fool fights through the war, and having faith in the Union, and believing that with the end of the war has come a settlement of all differences with the South, he goes thither to live, hoping to restore his lost health. Then come the incidents of reconstruction: the social attitude of Southern people toward the Northern man among them, the rise and decline of the Ku-klux outrages, the present prejudices which are to be overcome and overcome only by systematic, thoroughgoing, popular education. A movement in this direction the Fool thinks must begin at the North, as the South has always been heartily opposed to it. The story is given only to float the political and social study which the book really is, and which is pursued with great candor and no small discrimination, and evidently has an empirical basis.

'Old Friends and New' is a collection of Miss Jewett's stories, most of which have already appeared in the magazines. They are all gracefully done, and 'The Lost Lover' and 'Madame Ferry' may be especially commended for the delicate fancy they illustrate.

'Constance Winter's Choice' is one of the better stories of a very poor class; it will probably be shunned by all who know "the railway novel" when they see it, but nevertheless it is entirely possible to finish it if one begins it in a very idle hour.

*The Life and Works of Gilbert Stuart.* By George C. Mason. With selections from Stuart's Portraits reproduced on steel and by photography. (New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. 1879. 4to, pp. xii. 286.)—In form and appearance this is an amateur's book, in the best sense; *un livre d'amateur*. It is not often that such books appear in America. Although the plates, all but two, are photogravures only, yet the excellent character of the process when properly carried out, its accuracy of reproduction, and the artistic look of the prints, prevent any cheap or makeshift appearance. The two prints not photographic are, the one an etching in simple line, the other an engraving, and the impressions from both are fine. The book is beautifully printed, with paper such as it is a pleasure to see, and has a seemly cover in grey cloth with lettering in brown and red. On the whole there has not been so elegant an American fine-art book since Mr. Loubat's 'Medallie History of the United States,' though it lacks, indeed, what the latter had—original engravings of great value and unusual character. The contents have to do, fortunately, with one of the few American artists whose reputation is a dignified one. Gilbert Stuart is long enough dead to be an old master already. The massive and somewhat splendid character of his portraits associates itself with the costume of our forefathers, with the high rank and reputation of many of his sitters, and especially with the memory of Washington, in a way to make his works and himself peculiarly important to all Americans. A chapter of our early national history is to be found in this book. We open, for example, upon portraits of Washington and his wife, of General Gates and General Knox, of Chief-Justice Jay and Madame Bonaparte.

Half of the volume is devoted to what is called, modestly, "A List of Stuart's Works." It is a list only in the sense that it is alphabetical and in no wise classified; but the full description of the pictures and the men and women who sat for them, with dates and memoranda which it must have taken great labor to get together, make it a catalogue of a rather unusually complete sort. The Washington portraits are not included in this list, but stand by themselves, the discussion of them forming a separate chapter of thirty-five pages. Another chapter treats of the portraits of Stuart himself by different persons. Still another contains a very few letters addressed to him by famous people of his time. His own alleged remarks on art (printed in the *Crayon* for March, 1861), and said to have been printed in a broadside by James Bogle, the portrait-painter, form one brief chapter, and the first part of the book is occupied with an account of his own life and character. This last forms a very interesting, brief memoir, with great store of anecdotes, of which, to be sure, there are many to choose from. It would seem that there is little material for a complete biography; which is to be regretted, for Gilbert Stuart lived

'In Prison and Out.' By Hesba Stretton. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. 1879.  
'Women's Husbands.' Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1879.  
'Through Winding Ways.' By Ellen W. Olney. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1879.  
'A Man's a Man for a' That.' New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1879.  
'Di Cary.' By M. Jacqueline Thornton. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1879.

'A Fool's Errand.' By One of the Fools. New York: Fords, Howard & Hurlbert. 1879.  
'Old Friends and New.' By Sarah O. Jewett. Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co. 1879.  
'Constance Winter's Choice.' Boston: Loring. 1879.



among famous people, both in England and in America, and was a pleasure loving, society-seeking, outspoken, opinionated, and brilliant man, whose life and adventures would be worth having.

Especially noticeable in this book is a certain tone of independent judgment, difficult to maintain when discussing pictures in private hands, the knowledge of which can be gained only by favor of the owners. It seems to us that no person ought to take offence at anything said here, and yet the relative value of the pictures, in the writer's judgment, seems to be made clear. His success in so delicate a matter makes one wish there were more positive analysis and criticism of Stuart's work; of this the reader will find very little, and nothing final and satisfactory.

*Tyrol and the Skirt of the Alps.* By George E. Waring, Jr. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—It was entirely worth while publishing in book-form the series of papers which Mr. George E. Waring, Jr., contributed to *Harper's Magazine* last year under the title "Berg und Thal." They now make a volume of 171 large pages, admirably printed, and illustrated with some sixty-odd woodcuts. It may be briefly described as the record of the journey indicated in its title by an observant tourist who has the faculty of noting what he sees and of judging it dispassionately. We fail to find in it any trace of the book-making spirit, a negative virtue rare enough in works of the kind to be specifically mentioned. The reader's attention is asked for the professed subject of the work and not for the personal experiences and emotions of the traveller. There is enough of incident, however, to give reality and, in spots, vivacity to the narrative, and now and then a little philosophizing, such as, for example: "I have sometimes wondered whether the real snob may not be the ultimate development of that incipient feeling which the best of us must recognize among the emotions with which we greet a stranger coming to the vacant seat beside us"; but this is infrequent enough to indicate Mr. Waring's consciousness that this means of infusing piquancy into a book of travel is not so much his forte as are observation and report. The book might be

read in connection with Grohmann's 'Tyrol and the Tyrolese,' we suggest, for it is much more than a holiday gift-book (though it is that, too), and has the solid quality of instructiveness. To this end it would have been even more valuable if it had been more explicit, and had not assumed so much geographical and other knowledge in the reader; an outline map, such as could have been easily supplied, and, perhaps, an itinerary would have been useful additions—helps in which 'A Farmer's Vacation' was less deficient. The illustrations are not only in good taste but they illustrate the text, and, what is more, the text does not ignore their existence.

\* Publishers will confer a favor by always marking the price of their books on the wrapper.

## BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Authors.—Titles.	Publishers.—Prices.
Allibone (S. A.), Great Authors of All Ages .....	(J. B. Lippincott & Co.) \$5 00
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Blackwell (J. De R.), Poetical Works, Vol. I. ....	(New York)
Beach (Rev. D. N.), Hand-book of the International Lessons for 1880. ....	(Cong. Pub. Co.)
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Coffin (L.), Reminiscences, 2d ed. ....	(Robert Clarke & Co.) 2 00
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Mason (G. C.), Life and Works of Gilbert Stuart .....	(Chas. Scribner's Sons) 10 00
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